Haigh for Deuonſhire.

A Pleaſant Diſcourſe of ſixe gallant Marchants of Deuonſhire.

Their Liues, Aduentures, and Trauailes:
With ſundrie their rare ſhowes and Paſtimes,
ſhewed before the King in *Exeter*.

Beſides many merry Ieaſts by them performed:
as well in forraine Countreies, as in their owne.

Very delightfull for the Reader.

Written by H. R.

LONDON,
Printed by Thomas Creede, 1612.

TO THE WOR-

ſhipfull and moſt toward Gentleman, accompliſht with all vertues and graces of true Gentilitie, *Henry Cromwell:* ſonne and heire to the honoured *Oliuer Cromwell* Eſquire, H. R. your Worſhips profeſſed humble ſeruant,

wiſheth increaſe of all honourable vertues, with long life, and eternall happineſſe.

IDleneſſe is a ſinne (ſaith the *Text*) yet better idle, then ill imployed. That's as it is taken, (ſo ſaid the good wife that kiſt her owne *Cowe:*) all men hath their humors, each Plant his propertie, the vildeſt weede doth ſome good, and the vnskilfull writer, may either delight or admoniſh. The ancient learned, tooke ſometimes as great content to publiſh pleaſant Ieaſts, as to profit.

If the learnedſt writers had their pleaſure in conceited myrth, my hope is the more, of your Worſhips fauourable acceptance of this Pamphlet: albeit it may ſeeme rude to your iudgement, yet therein may you note the maners of ſundrie people, where the vertuous are honoured, and the ignoble diſcouered. From the inferiouſeſt flowers, the induſtrious Bee gathereth hony: the Roſe is not caſt away for her cankor: the ſweet Eglentine diſdained for the rough ſtalke, nor good mens worth blemiſht by vnskilfull lynes: from the vertuous good notes may be taken, remembred and followed.

Faithfull ſubiects, and good men in the common wealth, were theſe famous Marchants of whom I intreat, wealthy, charitable, and honeſt. How pleaſant conceited or merry you find them in their well ordered Ieaſts, offending none, but deſirous to do good to all, The cenſure of ſuch, to your worſhip I humbly commend: with the zealous Preſent of his

dutiſull affection, that voweth himſelfe in all power and abilitie, a deuoted ſeruant to you and all your worſhipfull anceſtors, from whoſe roote, your worſhip being a liuely branch, may by the aſſiſtance of the omnipotent deitie, many yeeres in happines continue among vs, the ioy of your renowned parents, your countries generall comfort, a firme piller, ſupporter, and maintainer of thoſe honoured vertues and loue, by your auncęſtors gained, and long time maintained.

At your Worſhips ſeruice,
ſo long as euer.

H. Roharts.

To the vvell intending and courteous Reader.

Amongſt many famous Marchants inhabiting the Weſterne confines of this fertile Ile, there was dwelling neere, and in the renowned Citie of Exeter, Totnes, Plymouth, Barneſtable, *and* Tyuerton, *many of great ſubſtance, as wealthy for vertue, as rich in coyne and credit: ſuch they were as for pelfe paſſed not, niggardneſſe came not neere their Manſions: their gates to the ſtranger alwaies opened, and their liberall hands releeued the poore. Two of which famous Marchants, viz.* William & Oliuer, *had reſidence in* Exeter, Walter *in* Totnes, Otho *in* Plymouth, Iohn *in* Barneſtable, *and* Robert *in* Tyuerton.

Theſe men whom God bleſſed with wealth, had thankefull mindes to the giuer, acknowledging his goodneſſe, whoſe ſtewards they were: Noblemen for their bountie, myrth, and fellowſhip, loued them: and Gentlemen of their Country, deſired their familiar company: their neighbours well eſteemed them, holding their friendſhip in great regard: and the poore daily prayed for them, whom they daily comforted.

Loue and good opinions, generally they gained at home: lyking, grace, fauour and countenance abroad: where euer they became, friends flocked vnto them, no man enuied their happineſſe: with forraine Princes and their ſubiects, who better eſteemed, or more welcommed? with the beſt they braued it: their countries credit, more then coyne preferred: their Prince in all places honoured, and countenanced their Country-men: in any action where fame was ſought, who more forward? wrong they offered no man, nor could they brooke

iniuries:

iniuries: in good cauſes as readie to fight as to feaſt: with vſurie they dealt not: aduantages of bonds they ſought not: Conetouſneſſe they abhorred: their honeſt Trade they lined by, gaining wealth with conſcience, and worſhip by deſert: in myrth and good fellowſhip they delighted, for Gold they cared not: hauing their Prouerbe common among them, (A ſtraw for a Peck of Ryalls) *hoſpitalitie they maintained, and did good to all that ſought vnto them. What worthie commendations they deſerued, their enſuing Hiſtorie ſhall ſhew you: (peruſing which) if you finde they were not as merry companions as the maddeſt Greekes you euer met, Ile burne my Cap, ſay Cut is a lade, the Shepheards Dog a Curre, and a baked white Pot, no good meate.*

Vale.

¶ To the friendly Reader.

IN Stories olde,
It hath bene tolde,
That many a Franion,
And boon-companion,
In this Land dwelled,
Which in vertue excelled:
Whose pleasant profession,
Wonne commendation,
Despising niggardie,
Fraughted with bountie:
Mongst many such men,
I frame my Pen,
Vnto you to tell,
What of yore befell:
Sixe Merchants bolde,
More worth then golde,
Whose names vnrolde,
Are highly extolde:
In *Deuon*, there dwelled,
As Fame telled:
Gallants most braue,
Valiant, wise, and graue,
As fewe now adayes,
That euery wayes,
With them might compare
Men excellent rare,
Of sixe such men,
Of whom my Pen
Is now to vnfolde,
That Stories olde,
Greatly I feare,
This many a yeare,
You shall not heare,
As to you shall appeare,
So honest, so kinde,
So franke of minde,
From *England* to *India*,
You shall not finde:
Farre they trauelled,
Much they dispended,
And trueth to saine,
Fauour did gaine,
Where ere they came,
They had the name:
For pelfe they car'de not,
For crowns they spar'd not,
By Sea they saile,
For *Englands* wealo,
And bring commodities,
From manie Countries:
The Poore they fed,
The Naked clothed;
A goodly rable,
Of men seruiceable,
This is no Fable,
They feede at their Table,
When peace they enioy,
Their stockes to imploy.
To *France* and *Spaine*,
Flanders and *Britaine*:

They venture on the Seas,
Where ſo they beſt pleaſe:
Of theſe famous men,
And deedes done by them,
When you ſhall heare,
How farre and neare,
They doe maintaine,
A worthy traine,
Of gallant men:
You will ſay then,
That worthy they are,
To haue a ſhare,
In the worlds glorie,
And not to lye
In darke *Oblivion:*
Tho hence they be gone,
In place where they liued,
They neuer grieued,
Either Rich or poore,
But ſought euermore,
Peace to maintaine,
Not priuate gaine:
Pleaſant they were,
And full debonayre,
Courteous to all,
Hating to brawle:
Their *Prince* duely,
They ſerued truely:
Valiantly in fielde,
They made the foe yeelde:
And on the ſalt Seas
Fought many ſtout Frayes,
In hazerd of blood,
For their Countryes good:
Men of courage,
And good Equipage,
Well they be deemde,
And highly eſteemde:
All men of skill,
Great matches they make,
And would vndertake,
With anie that came,
For all kinde of Game,
Shooting, and Foote-ball,
Wreſtling with all,
A hundreth pound a fall.
To anie that call,
Come that come will,
They ſhould haue their fill,
For any round ſumme.
As many as come, (not,
For thouſands they car'de
For heere they ſparde not:
Come *Prince*, come King,
They wanted nothing:
For all that come,
Be hee Lord or Groome,
Mirth was their delight,
Their purpoſes of might,
Great charge to defray,
Either to Feaſt or play,
The King they entertainde,
And his fauour gainde,
By great bountie:
There mindes were ſo free.
Since other are named,
And for their deeds famed,
Let theſe worthy men,
With *Fames* golden pen,
Be brought to view,

Of

To the friendly Reader.

Of that worthy Crew,
Which take delight,
Such praiſes to write,
That in obliuion,
They reſt not vnknowne.
For merry they were,
As to you ſhall appeare:
If you will reade,
Each ſeuerall deede,
By them performed,
Their myrth and glee,
When you ſhall ſee,
Say *Deuonſhire* Laddes,
Are no clowns or ſwaddes.

Your delight ended,
Let them be ſo friended,
In their behalfe to ſay,
Would more ſuch this day,
In this land there liued,
That ſo our foes greeued:
And our enemies quell,
So Gentiles farewell:
My Rime here I ende,
And to you commend,
Their ſtorie at large,
As I tooke the charge:
Whoſe actions to view,
Shall better pleaſe you.

FINIS.

A Table containing the contence of this Booke.

How these gallant Marchants of the west, began first their familiaritie, and what happened them. Chap. 1.

How these new acquainted friends iourni:d to Roane in Normandy, and what happened them. Chap. 2.

How Robert and Iohn, were lodged in the Nunnery of Saint Bennets in Roane, and were by the Lady Abbesse, cured of their wounds. Chap. 3.

How Oliuer for his vnreuerence in time of Procession, was committed to prison, and all his companions. Chap 4.

How Oliuer, Robert and Otho, departed to Burdeux: and William and his two companions arriued in Engl. nd. Chap. 5.

How William after his returne to Engl. nd, traded in the Citie of Exeter, where he wooed a wife. Chap. 6.

How Iames, Williams prentise, abused his maister to his loue, to hinder the marriage. Chap. 7.

How the father and mother of Ioane, Williams loue, sent for him. Chap. 8.

How Iames, Williams man, was troubled in minde for his bad doings, and what meane is vsed to knowe the cause of his griefe. Chap. 9.

How the fixe Marchants in their iourney to Bristow met by chance, and what chanced. Chap. 10.

How William in his iourney home from Bristow was robde, and how in merriment his companie payd all his losse. Chap. 11.

How these famous Marchants for wrongs done them by the French nation, furnished twelue shippes to the sea, with their victories. Chap. 12.

How Ioane, Williams wife, could not indure her seruant Iames, with his departure to Spaine. Chap. 13.

How the King with his army marched to Exeter, and releeued the Citie, besieged by the Cornish rebels. Chap. 14.

How William and his other friends, to make the King sport, made challenge to all commers: at wresling, hurling, and footeball. Chap. 15.

How

THE TABLE.

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How Iames trauelling from Gallilee to ſaint Lucas, encountred a Lady, widowe to a Caualeere of Spaine, *in mans apparrel.* Chap. 18.

How Iames lay with the Spaniard, and found her to be a woman. Chap. 19.

How Iames accompanied the Lady to Cheryes, and what entertainement ſhe gaue him. Chap. 20.

How William by one of her neighbours, was made acquainted with Iames his mans fortunes, with his anſwere to him. Chap. 21.

How William, Otho, and Oliuer, from Plimouth paſſed to Spaine, and their fortunes. Chap. 22.

How the Engliſh Marchants arriued at Cheres, at Iames his marriage. Chap. 23.

How Iames with his wiues honourable friends, being at their cheere, William and his companie viſited them, with their welcomes. Chap. 24.

How Otho and Oliuer at the houſe of a Curtizan, was robde of their moneyes and apparell. Chap. 25.

How Iames at his maiſter Williams departure, cleered all his accounts with recompence, and his wiues kinde fauours. Chap. 26.

FINIS.

A pleaſant Diſcourſe of ſix gallant Merchants of Deuonſhire.

CHAP. I.

¶ How theſe gallant Merchants of the *Weſt*, beganne their firſt Familiaritie, and what happened them.

THe famous Citie of Bourdeaux is ſcituated in Brittaine, part of the French Confines: in which Citie, yearely, neare the moneth of September, is helde a Mart of long continuance; To which Mart or Vyntage, from all places, Marchants make their Trafficke, for ſuch Wines as the Countryes thereabouts doeth plentifully yéeld. Amongſt many of ſundry Countries, which made their voyage to this famous Port, three gallant youths, Marchants of great reputation, wealth, & credit, hauing to names, William, Robert and Otho: all from the well knowne and honourable Citie of Exeter, had reſidence at Roane in Normandie; where their great affaires ended (hauing ſome idle time,) and waying not the expence of an hundreth or two of Crownes, in a merriment; gaue faithfull promiſe each to other, to paſſe for Bourdeaux, as well to ſée the manner of the Vyntage, and order thereof, as witneſſe to themſelues, whether report of the great Flæte, which yearly there laded, might bee true, as alſo to méete with ſome of their Country-men of Deuonſhire, and with them to frolicke: for which iourney, according

cording to time prefixed, being prouided. To Bourdeaux they are come, where they frequent the gallantest company of all Nations thereof, demeaning themselues in such manner, that their company was acceptable and desired of all men: companions for all Sports or exercises, whether Gaming, drinking, sporting, or reuelling: what any durst doe, they neuer refused it, such Gen-companions they are, and so of all men esteemed.

Not long after their comming to Bourdeaux, Fortune bringeth with happinesse from the Westerne shore of England, a tall Shippe, well equipped and furnished fitte for the voyage: of whose arriuall, William and his complices being aduertised, as men glad to heare of their Countreyes welfare and Friends, make such enquiry for the Ships companie, that in good time they are met, with three other gallant Merchants, (viz) Walter, Oliuer, and Iohn; with whome as straungers meeting, and questions propounded and answered, William knowing courtesie & kindnesse, enuited the new arriued Merchãts to his lodging that night to supper: which with thanks they accepted, and accordingly, at the appointed houre came, where (make no question) they were all as welcome, as friends in forraine partes may be to friends; spending the Euening, sometimes in discoursing of their Countrey and acquaintance there: sometimes in gaming, and often Carowsing healths to their Countrey, kindred, and friends.

Amongst this delight, albeit Oliuer, Iohn, and Walter, were as well pleased in their company, as countreymen might be: yet were their mindes other where, especially Oliuer and Iohn, who yearely Trafficke for that Porte, had their Loues neare adioyning; one dwelling at Bloys, the other at Saint Martines: such as for beautie wealth, and reputation, might draw men of more worth to their liking; of whome Oliuer and Iohn in priuate whisperings, toke great care, entending that night to haue seene them, & deliuer such presents as they brought from England, had not this meeting of their Countreymen preuented them.

To all which priuate talke, William and Robert toke

good

good heede. But William specially gaue eare, and ouerheard their speech: vnderstanding by many motions, that willingly they would haue bene free from their companies, which he could well haue wished them, to their best liking: but that he entended to search them as he could, and make tryall what mettall his countreymen were of: & for that purpose, when he had well lined their hoodes with the iuyce of Grape, a potion that maketh the coward bold, and ouerthroweth the stoutest, William singleth from his companion, the best demeaned Oliuer, and with him, of many matters discoursed: betweene whom, such enchaunting words passed, that an inuiolable league of friendship was professt, as nothing might haue power to violate: and consequently amongst them all.

William growing on this new vowed friendship, to more familiar parly, besought Oliuer and the rest, hauing acquaintance in that place, to bring them to their seuall friends in the Citie, where they might spend that night to see the fashions of those damsels, for that they were straungers & had no acquaintance: for requitall of which, he promised them if they could finde opportunities to come to Roane, where they had abiding, they would so quite their kindnesse as they should well like of.

Oliuer, as well disposed to mirth as his friend William, and as pleasantly conceited, imagined that his owne speech to his companion Iohn was ouerheard, whereon this question was propounded, toke in good part his words, and thankfully accepted all friendship offered, and cheare receiued. Beseeching pardon, not accomplishing his desire, whom he assured was of more continuance in the Citie, then himself, that had not bene full foure and twentie houres a shoare: and therefore rather ought to be a conductor to him and his companions, his experience being more then twentie such Idiots as himselfin such causes. Therefore good brother (quoth Oliuer) rather let vs participate with your feminine pleasures, that being Leagers are not vnprouided: and hereafter if you haue cause to vse vs, it may be, we more men may prooue as kinde to you vpon like occasion.

William thus prettily trumped by his friend Oliuer, returning the point of his own weapon into his bosome, thought it ill halting before a Cripple, and hereby iudged his countreymen no Clownes, nor their answeres to sorke, which on the suddē could giue them such bones to gnaw on. Wherfore leasking to reply, least words in iest spoken, might break their familiaritie by acceptions taking, they here with a freshe carouse, end their nights sports, leauing euery man to his rest: taking this order with them by generall consent, that euery of them should not faile at times ordinarie for repast, to haue their dyets at one house, to be chosen by whole consent, where whosoeuer should be absent, not hauing such businesse as the company might tollerate, must forfet a summe by them to be agreed on. To this when they had all said Amen, and hands giuen for continuing their begun friendship, they betoke themselues to their rests.

CHAP. II.

How these new acquainted friends iournied to *Roane* in *Normandie*, and what hapned to them.

THese gallant youths (as you haue heard) vsing such continuall company, their liking encreased, and their familiaritie was admired, which was generally noted of all straungers in the Cittie of Burdeux, where they had commendations, not onely for their mirth, good fellowship, and company keeping, but in regard of their businesse, (then whom) none more forward, vsing all times to fit purpose, if leisure permitted: who more frolike? or what were they in the whole company of any Nation, that durst vndertake these sixe gallants at any sport, exercise, or gaming whatsoeuer, whether in pleasure or for coyne? whose purses were not tyed with miseris, nor did they account of Crownes before their countries honour.

Oliuer,

Oliuer, Iohn, and VValters, being well acquainted in Bourdeaux, well beloued and grated amongst the better sorte of Marchants with whom they did vsually Trafficke, had offer of most the best Wines that came thither; whereby they made the soner dispatch, laded their Shippe, and made ready wines for her second returne: which done, and they at leisure to take their pleasure, VVilliam, Robert, and Otho, were called away to Roane, for supply of businesse; desirous of their good friends companies, with many sutes importuning them for the same, whome after many denials they graunt, prouiding them horses & other necessaries for their iourney: which done, and solemne Farewell taken of their friendes that stayd behinde: forward they set, as pleasant and merrily disposed as might bee, eache one glad of others companie, framing occasions of solace, the better to beguile their time of trauell, continuing their iollitie all that night in their lodging, fearing no man, nor dreading any ill to betide them.

But as the fairest dayes by Cloudes are sene ouercast, the greatest ioyes Eclipsed with plaints, and all men subiect to crosses; So fell it out with these faithfull friends, who taking their way (by iourney as it laye,) through the Forrest of Ardine, were besette with a companie of Outlawes, Theeues, which lay in Ambush to intercept them: who comming neare the Thicket where the treacherous villaines lay, suddenly issued, and furiously assailed them; first with their Pistolles, which dangerously they discharged against them, renuing the fight with their Rapiers: in which first assault, Robert and Iohn with their Pistolles were dangerously hurt, VVillam, Oliuer, Otho, and VValter, maintained the fight with great courage: so applying themselues, that in short time they made free passage, in despight of those Villaines, which made sure account to haue had their spoyle; of whome two were in fight slaine, and diuers hurt, who trusted better to their heeles then staying to saue their liues.

VVilliam and his company seeing so good a riddance of these companions, & none sene neere them: not assured what rescue

might come, made no stay, but binding vp the wounds of Robert and Iohn as they could, hasteneth on their way, making all speede to a Towne not farre from them, where (by a Fryer skilfull in Chirurgery) they were dressed: this night reposing themselues, comforting their friends, and the nert day taking with them such Emplasters, Balmes, and other prouision needfull to their wounds, to serue till they came to Roan, they set forward; which within three dayes, to their great content, they recouered.

CHAP. III.

¶ How *Robert* and *Iohn* were lodged in the Nunnerie of Saint *Bennets* in *Roane*, where by the Lady *Abbas* they were cured.

AS soone as these good Friendes recouered Roane, and had housed their wounded companions, to ease them whilest other prouision was made: VVilliam and Otho being best acquainted, knowing the Ladie Abbas of Saint Bennets to be a very charitable and skilfull woman in Surgerie, made meanes vnto her, for fauour to be showne to their wounded friendes; loving the Countrey (as manie kille the childe for the Nurses sake) after small entreatie, was content to accept into the Monasterie, whome she the more tendered, because they receiued their wounds by trecherie of her Countreymen; but when she saw their persons, she wonderfully affected them: for whome beyond ordinary, she caused prouision to be made, both for Diet & Lodging, of such their friends that visit them, her selfe dressing their woundes, and so applying them, that the daunger of their griefes were soone past: which very much pleased the Lady, hauing a zeale to doe them good, for that she held it meritorious.

CHAP.

CHAP. IIII.

¶ How *Oliuer* for his vnreuerent demeanour at the *Procession*, is committed to prison, with his Companions.

Whilest the two wounded men, Robert and Iohn, were recouering their healthy, their other companions kept in the Citie of Roane, youthfully imploying themselues, imboldned by the countenance of William, whose acquaintance were manie, and Friends great; by which meanes sundrie leawde prancks were not seene, which deserued imprisonment and punishment (by their law) So long continuing their boldenesse without regarde, that a worse hap then chanced. Oliuer, being a very pleasant conceited fellow, (in his humour) chanced to be amongst a multitude, standing in the chiefe streete of the Citie, to view the solemne Procession passing by, whereon a sudden, to the great admiration and trouble of the company, stepping to the Friar that carryed the rich Crosse, violently toke it from him, and dashed it so furiously against the ground, that it brake all to peeces: which by the multitude was taken in such ill part, that by commandement of the Clergie, he, and as many Englishmen as were then in his company, were taken, and to straight Prison committed, where they were cruelly vsed, for whome no sute might preuaile.

This mad prancke was generally spoken off, throughout the Citie of Roane; and by ill hap, came to the hearing of Iohn and Robert, who were now (by the helpe of God and the Ladies good industrie) well recouered: but by their friends trouble brought to such melancholy, bewailing their ill hap (which was perilous) that nothing might moue them to mirth, or cause their content. Albeit yet the good Abbas and other their friends, did what possible they could: that by their woe, many

griefes ariseth, the Abbas sorroweth, and the whole company complaineth for their consort, whome none but their friendes libertie can comfort; especially such of the Virgines that exchanged their French purity for English loue, esteeming more of the imprisoned English, then the whole countrey. Amongst those that Loue had tyed in liking, the Ladie Abbas was not least in affection: who daylie dressing the woundes of Robert with her owne hands, beganne so well to bee pleased in his companie, that shee forgate her Paternosters, her stomacke so wambled with this little god of Loue, that hauing small time to cloath her, was often compelled to make her offerings a bed.

Robert againe of an humble and thankefull spirit, hauing strength and abilitie to performe the office of a man, hath so well pleased the Ladie, that shee rather desired priuate conference with Robert, (her new deuoted Seruant) then to heare the sweetest Channon chaunte in the Quire, descant hee neuer so well, yet the Ladies Deuotion is colde to the Church, but burning to the Chamber.

This loue of the Lady Abbas to Robert, must be the meane now to relieue their friends and procure their libertie, whereof Robert promiseth himselfe assurãce: to effect which, knowing the Ladie doated in his liking, and desired his health and contentment, he continueth his melancholly in such extreame manner, demeaning himselfe in those passions, that his griefe caused all the Nunnes sorrow, who neuer durst leaue him, fearing his distemper might cause him vse violent handes on himselfe, but with manie good wordes perswaded him to comfort, whose eares were shut to the doctrine they preached.

So long continued this franticke humour on Roberts that the good Ladie ganne to finde want of her delight, and missed Roberts recourse to her lodging, which bred in her a great discontent, and more troubled in her want, then Robert was for his distressed friends. Wherefore to reclaime him from these sullen humours, shee studied and deuised all possible meanes she could to doe them good, for which hauing conceited a Plot,

she

she sendeth her secret képer with her ring, intreating Robert of the loue he protested her, instantly to visit her in her closet: which kinde message Robert refuseth, railing & exclaiming against her, and her people, cursing and banning, the Countrie, the citie, & Communaltie, that iniured his friends: continuing this fit so long, that the good Lady moued with remorse, in her night gowne came to visite him: vnto whom hauing giuen much holesome counsell, (which he hearkeneth vnto) gently wringing him by the tender hãds, she entreateth him to walk with her to her gallerie, where by solemne oath she protesteth if he would frolickt it as he was wont, and no more be croked with these passions, to ouerthrowe his own estate, and grieue those whose ioy he is, by that meanes she had deuised, his friends ere two daies be expired should haue their libertie, and he enioy his owne contentment.

Robert well pleased with these words, was in his minde more quieted, yet made no semblance thereof, but accused her of flattery & dissimulation, seeming in speech so vehement, as if he would haue murdred all that came neare him: which the pitifull Lady with teares bewayled, vowing by her holy Order, and by all rights of her honour, to performe her promise, or it should cost all the wealth she had, and hazarde of her best friends, on which giuing him her hand, she leadeth him like a good Nurse, carefull least harme should betyde her Infant: conducting him to that place where so often she desired his company, where he still continued, vsing her to performe her promise.

Earely in the morning, as carefull of her charge by vowe made, she sendeth for the Prior of the Iacobins, an auncient Benefactor to her house, whose shame she had many times couered, and remitted his sinne offending with her Holy maydes. With this Iacobine, she so by large promises and lamentable speech preuaileth, that in hope of performance, and free accesse to the house at his pleasure, with libertie of his olde loue, the match is concluded, the Iacobine hath giuen his faith, sweating by his Cowle and Croked staffe, he

will

will not leaue them vntill they were free, which by his friends he so laboured to those in authoritie, that by generall consent of the whole Clergie, the Englishmen enioyed liberty, and the Iacobine his pleasure.

CHAP. V.

How *Oliuer*, *Robert* and *Otho*, departed towards *Burdeux*, *William* and his two companions, arriued in *England*.

RObert by his great policie hauing purchased his countreymens libertie, and being both perfectly cured of their wounds, time drawing on, appointed for meeting their ship comming from England, after they had a while feasted with the Marchants of the Citie, (desiring their company) and frolicked with his friends, which done, Robert and Iohn, willing to shew their thankfulnes to the Lady Abbas, which would receiue no money, they procured two of the best Iewels and rarest they could finde, which in all humblenesse they presented her, which she thankfully accepted: with a heauie heart giuing a long farewell to her beloued Robert, with whom when she had in secret conuersed, she commended them to their prosperous iourney, whom she promiseth in her prayers to remember: giuing vnto Robert, a paire of Beades, so rich and beautifull as he neuer saw the like: a Crucifixe and chayne valued at a thousand crowns, with rewards to Iohn: which done, she gaue commandement for her coach, and twelue of her honest Tenants well mounted, to accompanie them to Burdeux.

Robert receiuing these great fauours, in requitall, tendered his loyall seruice, with many humble duties by vow to be performed: which was more pailed at her Ladiships hands, then all the wealth he could offer: such was the Ladies affection vnto him, whose absence, howsoeuer she for fashion sake coloured,

coloured, it causeth her hearts extreame sorrow. But howsoeuer, the time is now come to leaue them, his company bra-uely mounted, attende to bring him on his way, which made knowne, the Abbas bids farewell with many kinde faueurs, and a million of Paternosters, Aue maries, and Crædes, long fastings, often watchings, and a world of Religious ceremonies for his good successe: what the other prettie pure soules doe for their Loues, good Gentlemen imagine; for it is like they would be as well vsed as their mistresse.

Onwards now are our Gallants towardes Bourdeaux, where by the way, Robert acquainted his friende VVilliam and the rest of his companie with his Fortunes, continuing these pleasant Discourses, till they came to their Lodging: where that night they had merrie chatting and carousing to their friendes, the Ladie Abbas, and the Sisters healths; the next morning they toke their leaue one of another: Oliuer and his two friendes for Bourdeaux, and VVilliam, and his companions to Roane.

VVilliam had not long continued at Roane, but a Shippe arriued from Exeter, by the Merchants whereof, hee receiued the woefull newes of his Maisters death, with commaundement from his Mistresse and the Executors, to gather in his Debts, make sale of such goods as he had, perfect his Accounts, and with the first Shippe to come for England. All which, when he had ouerpast his sudden sorrow for the losse of so good a friend, like a carefull man, to please the liuing, as he had his deceased Maister, with such effect followed his businesse, that by the Shippes returne, he was readie with the first to goe aboord: For which voyage, hauing shipped his prouision, and such goods as he had, hee inuited sundrie his good Friendes to banquet: which ended, with kinde embracings, hee biddeth farewell to them that wish his prosperitie at Sea.

CHAP. VI.

¶ How *William* after his returne to *England*, Traded for himselfe in the Cittie of *Exeter*, and wooed a wife.

GOod Fortune and fauorable windes, hath safely landed William & other his friends, who being carefull, could not be quiet nor merrie with any companie, vntill he had deliuered his Accounts, which to the good liking of the Widow and the Executors, he performed, hauing their Quittance generall; which done, aduised by his friends, he seated him in a good place, Trading for himselfe, with good successe, in which he so profited, that wealth increased abundantly: gaining by his good behauiour, charitie, and good conscience, the generall good opinion of the whole Cittie: vnto whom many men tendred their Daughters with great dowries: but that life liked he not. When he had with great care and labour spent some two or three yeares, Substance encreasing, and Customers flocking, her toke to Prentise an honest Farmers sonne, named Iames; shortly after this, as time ouercommeth all things, and Experience maketh men wise, especially where man with man perswade.

William after many kinde aduertisements of friends, continually putting him in minde of the comfort of marriage, and pleasures therein: the ioyes Fathers haue of their Children, and honours thereby obtained, was wonne at length to consider thereof: and resoluing to marrie, offer was made him of a proper Maiden, the onely childe of a very honest and wealthie man, not farre from the Cittie; with whose parents the friends of William hauing conference, hearing a verie good report of the man; her Father agreed, promising a good portion with his daughter, if they could like. Thereupon William was by his friends inuited to her Fathers house the Sunday following

to

to dinner against which time, Ione (for so the Maydens name was called) in the best maner apparelled her selfe, knowing to what end this silly wooer came, where he was welcome to her father, but better to the childe that longed to be a wife: Dinner ended, where wanted no good cheare, every man betaketh himself to passe the time as best contenteth him. William not forgetting his errant was for a wife if he could get her, desired the maiden to be his conducter to the Garden, where after they had walked two or three turnes, viewing the beautie thereof, and commending the pleasure of the same: William being a bashfull young man, after many frinolous questions, fearing to be counted a coward hauing such aduantage, solicites her for loue, with such pretie questions, and her wittie answeres, that William, after the first assault became valiant, whetting his wittes to answere her parley, wherein he so preuailed, that the skirmish waxing faint, his hope was the greater to scale the Forte without more danger. And like a conquerer might vaunt with honor, the Towne is his, though with some faint denialls, for modestie she said nay: yet vpon conditions, her father said Amen. Ioane writes Content.

This short worke contented William well, who was now pleased in thought of marriage, hauing such hope in his suite, hating to be long a wooing, and rather chusing to liue euer without a wife, then tied long to lingring suites: yet to please Ioane, whose ioy he now is, how well soeuer his choise and her answeres pleased, kept it to himselfe, comforting her father, and his friends, that all should be well he doubted not: but as they wished, after this first meeting and loue of either giuen secret to other, William euery day with letters solicited his Ioane: betweene whō many pretie tokens was enterchanged, and of both parties accepted, all furthering loue and good liking: and was pleasing to father, mother, and his friends, before whom, shortly after they were made sure.

CHAP. VII.

How *Iames*, *Williams* seruant, abused his maister to *Ioane*, hindering their loue.

William assured by promise to his Ioane, and the Banes publikely asked, many his familiar friends, some in iest, others in good soth, bad God giue him ioy: his seruant Iames, enquiring of his maisters forwardnesse of many, was somewhat discontented and grieued: considering the vncontrolled life he then liued, and the care he should haue to please a Mistresse, had many knauish deuises hammering in his head to breake the match, and to keep his maister a Batcheler still. Amongst many other his practises, one onely he intended to effect, if opportunitie would giue him leaue: which not many dayes after sorted to his desires, and thus vnhappily he practised it.

Diuers Marchants of Exeter, Williams very good friends, being readie to put to sea, inuited (as their custome is) their familiar acquaintance to their parting banquet, amongst which guests, William was solemnely bidden. Iames knowing his Master safe for stirring, prouided a horse, and in al the hast poasted to Ioane, entending to try his wittes: whither he came in the euening neare bedde time, who seeing the old man and his wife sitting at the doore, earnestly desired to speake with Ioane: vnto whom he deliuered a very solemne message in name of his Maister, desiring her of all the loue she doth professe, spedily to come vnto him, if she tooke pleasure in his life that was dangerously sicke on the suddaine: so strangely taken, as no life was expected.

This suddaine newes appalled the whole houshold, Ioane cried, the father lamented, & the mother with wringing hands bewailed this vnhappie fortune of William: to satisfie whose minds,

minde, preparation was made for Ioanes iourney, Iames hearing what was broached amongst them, laughed to himselfe, and very earnestly hastened the olde man to send away his Ioane, vnto whom he made tender of his seruice, to be her conuoy for so small a iourney, if it pleased them: wherof her father was glad: loth so late to be troubled himselfe, or his seruants, to Iames deliuered her, commending them to good speed. Iames possessed of his adopted mistresse, hauing her from her fathers house, bethought him of his entended knauery: hauing then the best opportunitie, with a deep sigh, & voice mournfull, as a graue man moued to pitie, began to commend her beauty, personage, good gifts, honest parentage, and wealth likely, with other her exceeding vertues, worthie for the best man in the Citie, to be vtterly cast away by marriage with his Maister William.

Ioane hearing these protestations, albeit her mind was cumbred with Iames his tydings, yet gaue good eare to his speech: whereof taking the aduantage, cut him off, and with kinde words besought him to explaine his meaning, that marrying his maister she were cast away.

Which Iames by no means, either for promise of fauour, gifts or entreatie would graunt against his maister, whose welfare he esteemed as his life, although it mightily concerned her good.

These latter speeches, put her into further dumps, causing more desire to be resolued. But Iames in no wise would grant, vntil by great oathes he swore her to conceale from all people, either the cause, or reuealer of the same. To all which couenants Ioane sware to be iust, & faithfully to keepe, which done he said: Sweete Mistresse Ioane, though my yeares deny me that experience which many good men proue, yet am I not so senselesse, but can conceiue the pleasures parents haue in vertuous children, the ioyes in wedlocke, and the sweete content therein: where husband and wife participate in one simpathie of loue, and so much the more greene, to see such a one as your selfe, marked of God to be the mother of many sweet Infants, wherein your fathers aged yeares should be blessed, and the world by procreation encreased, should be depriued of all rights

due in marriage to the poorest begger: robbed of mothers honorable name, and pleasure therein, all proceeding from the imperfections of nature, in him whose wife by full graunt you are.

Ioane hearing these reports from Williams owne servant, who thought she sorrowed to the death, for his supposed sickneſſe, wished his head off, so she were rid of him: entring into consideration of Iames particular speech, the losse of wombes pleasures, and mothers delight, so nearely touched her, that as in a trance she had like to haue fallen from her horse, if Iames had not the more regarded her. Whose extremitie (whē he saw) stricken with fear of his mistresse Ioanes wel doing, he wished that vndone which was begun: yet taking heart of grace, knowing care must be comforted, chear○d her with the best speech he could: so long perswading, that she reuiued againe: calling to minde, the great losse of that she most hoped for: the thought of William was loathsome vnto her, wishing neuer to heare or see him more: earnestly desiring Iames, as he tendered her life, to returne to her fathers house: for if she proceed, there is no hope but to expect death. Iames more willing to entreat her, then Ioane to craue, (for fashions sake) besought her to goe forward to his maister. But nothing might preuaile, home she would, no denial could serue: whither Iames made such haste, that they came before the old man was in bedde.

The sudden comming of Ioane with her guide Iames, much amazed them: especially seeing their dearest childe in such a pittifull case; and not knowing the cause, thought verily that some hobgoblings or theeues had frighted them: which to assure them, finding Ioane in weake case, and not to be questioned, the mother and her maides were very carefull in hauing her to bed: meane while the father earnestly enquired of Iames what the occasion of his daughters griefe was: who like himselfe, so suttelly pleaded, that the old man was not a whit ỹ wiser: Iames hauing broached this deuise, how well or ill so euer it speedeth in the end. After he had in secret coniured

Ioane

Ioane by her holy Oathes to remember her promiſe, with all ſpeede haſteneth to Exeter, where he diſcharged his horſe, and recouered his maiſters houſe, long before the company brake vp; William little ſuſpecting what his man had bene about.

CHAP. VIII.

¶How the Father and Mother of *Ioane*, ſeeing their daughters ſickneſſe increaſe, ſent for *William*.

IOane languiſhing in this conceited feare of her Williams want, gan grow ſo weake, that her friends had ſmall hope of her recouery; bring in beſt cõfort when she might be alone: where with ſighes and grieuous complaints of her fathers raſhnes, ſhee exclaimeth on her hard fortune, being ſo vnhappily marked aboue all the women ſhe hath knowne: vtterly inueying againſt William, that knowing his imperfections, durſt ſeduce any woman to his deceitfull loue: defying wealth, honour, and not caring to be married to the greateſt Monarke hauing thoſe neceſſary wants.

Her good Father, whoſe comfort was his Ioanes health, when he could not learne by all poſſible meanes the occaſion: and ſickneſſe (rather encreaſing then ceaſing,) aduiſed by his kindred, ſent for her Loue William, hoping his preſence might comfort her; who like a kinde man, leauing all to his ſeruant Iames, preſently procured from the Apothecaries ſuch comfortable Drugges as he could get for mony, with ſugars and ſpices of his owne ſtore, haſtning to his loue Ioane; where to her Father and mother he was a welcome man. But Ioane toke little pleaſure in his ſight or companie, his preſence being ſo irkeſome, and Iames his tale troubleſome; William offering her kindeneſſe, comming to her bed ſide to ſpeake with her, ſhe violently thruſt him from her, turning her to the other ſide, not caring for his courteſie or him, but earneſtly intreated them to take him from her. This ſtrangeneſſe which ſhee ſhewed

William,

William, whome they thought would haue beene a comfort, more troubled them, then any other accident, especially William, whom it most concerned, who entred into all iudgmẽts seeming reason, sauing the principal, which they neuer suspected. William censuring all things to the best of her whom hee dearely loued, was therefore the more in spirit cumbred: yet pacifying himselfe as he best might, walked abroad, spending time vntill the euening, when he thought sleepe might better quiet her, and giue some better temper to her wittes: which hapned not so well, for no sooner came he in her sight, but presently she followed her olde humor, to Williams great griefe, seeing other men well entreated and welcome to her, hee onely despised: in this cholericke humor hee would haue left the house, and like to haue sworne by great oathes neuer to come thither more, had not the companie which wished them both well pacified him; at whose request and great intreatie, hee stayed, though in small content all night, to see if any alteration would be.

CHAP. IX.

How *Iames* was troubled in minde for that which happened, and what meanes was vsed to knowe the cause of *Ioanes* sicknes.

IAmes hauing ended his businesse, being at some leisure, beganne to consider what wrongs he had offered his Maister and his friende, and what might follow this diuellish practise; In this quandary, when he had wayted some time extraordinarie for his Maister that came not, hee gat to bed, where the guiltinesse of his foule offence so cumbred him, that hee toke small rest. The morning no sooner gane light, but Iames wearied with his nightes disquiet, got vp about his businesse, and not long after came William home, as heauie and full of passions as a man might be losing his delight: her Father and mother with weeping neare wearied, & the whole household mourned for their disquiet. The olde woman who had a motherly care of the Mayden, searching all wayes and meanes for her daugh-

daughters health, principally noted the small content thereto in Williams company, who hearing that he was gone, began more cheerefully to talke, calling for such things as she liked: this amendment caused her mother to imagine, some discontēt it was y troubled her, which would be her destruction if some meane were not found, to know the cause from whence it proceeded. To effect which, politikely she insinuates with an auncient Mayden seruant of theirs, that had bene her daughters bed-fellow euer since she was weaned, whom Ioane loued well: to her the Mother maketh great mone, promising mony plentifull and what other friendship they could do for her, if she could by any deuice attain the knowledge of her griefe, for that they were assured was the chiefest cause. The mayden wrought by her old Mistresse, promised faithfully to do her best to satisfie them, not forgetting her Maister & Mistresse good words, & rich proffers of mony, as one that could well handle the matter, watching in y night with Ioane. vttred many faire words, bemoaning her extremitie, & pitying her distresse, saying she was perswaded that some secret sorrow cumbred her, willing whatsoeuer was in her minde, to reueale it to some one whom she best trusted therewith: which would be the more comfort for her in sickneſſe: so might she the better ease her heart of sorrow, and haue meanes to relæue her: otherwise there was no hope of life. Ioane hearkening to her approued friends good counsell, after she had sworne her to conseale what she had to impart vnto her, and the seruant promising faithfully to fulfil whatsoeuer she was enioyned, with many sighes which like smoke came from her stomack, out it came, which sore burned her heart & consumed her body: vttring whereof, she enuyed against her Father, Mother, William, and all friends thereto consenting. The seruant hearing her, beléeued verily she had found where the hurt lay, and smothed her more to fæle the bottome of her heart, which Ioane faithfully discharged at full, leauing nothing hid from her. With which newes, the Mayden laboured as a woman with childe to be deliuered, wayting opportunitie, to her Maister and Mistresse she came, and vnto

them deliuered what Ioane vnder Benedicitie had reuealed: assuring her Matter that was the cause. Her mother at hearing thereof, grew into admiration how Ioane should come to knowledge of so great a secret, yet was glad at the heart, she had that giuen her to vnderstand.

The better to eschew ill to such chances incident, with more tender compassion, bemoning her, that being a woman as she was, should so be deluded, losing the benefit of youth, the rytes to marriage in dutie appertaining.

The olde woman finding by Ioanes trustie friend where her griefe lay, on the morrow came vnto her, inciting her, by the dutie of a childe, to let her know if any thing troubled her minde, and freely speaking without blame, she should be comforted, if all the abilitie she had would procure it.

Ioane hearing her mothers speeches, though modestie willed her conseale it, trusting her mother would be secret to her in like manner, reuealed the substance of Iames his tale & cause of her griefe: which the old woman was glad of, willing her to take comfort and be of good cheare, for she should not haue that wrong by her consent: blaming her most, for so long consealing the occasion, so highly to greeue her selfe: which sooner made knowne, order had bene taken before that time, for a husband sufficient. Ioane well pleased with her mothers saying, assured of her loue, began to comfort her selfe in hope, and by little and little recouered some strength.

Her mother whose secrets she could not kéepe, to a Gossop a neighbour of hers, reuealed the cause of her childes maladie, and the imbecilitie of William. So long this newes was carried, that it came by a Nourse dwelling in that parish, to Exeter, who told her mistresse, which was wife to a wealthy Marchant, what common talke was through their parish of William. The Marchants wife, whose husband loued William wel, could not be quiet, but assone as her husbād came in, acquainted him with that report. The good man smiling at his wiues simplicitie, that was no better implored then to spend her time hearing so bad a tale. Wife (quoth he) I hope your modestie is

more,

more, then to be a carrier of such tydings: to answere you, as I would doe all others that speake it, I will on my oath iustifie, that hee is a Man sufficient for any reasonable Woman: what I speake is truth, I know it well: having bene his bedfellow almost three yeares, learning our language in Spaine.

The Marchant acquainted William herewith, who in choller (accompanied with some friends, hyed to the Farmers house, requesting to see Ioane, who would not be spoken with; wherefore taking her Father aside (in private) hee discoursed how he was abused: and vehemently protested he would not be made a scorne by his Daughter, if she were a Ladie: therefore willed to let him know the originall of this scandall, or by Heauen he protested, the next Sunday, at Diuine seruice, in their parish Church, to quit himselfe of so great an ignominy, he would naked shewe himselfe, to her and their great shame, that deuised the same. The olde man seeing William so angry, by milde speech brought him to more reason, and at his intreatie, discouered vnto him what modestie forbad; on which assurance, her Father with his Daughter and Mother so preuailed, that taking his word for currant, and William for good payment, shee apparelled her selfe, and came amongst them: where all Broyles were ended, and promises faithfully giuen, neuer more to be remembred; and shortly after, to both their contents were wedded. Ioane finding her man Iames to be a strife-maker, though she neuer (for her oath) discouered his doings, secretly enuyed him euer after.

CHAP. X.

How the sixe Marchants, *William, Oliuer, Otho, Iohn, Walter* and *Robert*, in their iourney to *Bristow* mette, and what happened them.

WIlliam hauing espoused his Ioane, placed her in Exeter, hee following his businesse: which pleased Ioane and her Parents well, who hath nowe found his Manhoode, and repraued the scandales. Not long after the marriage, was the Fayre for Saint Iames at Bristowe, to which, from all places of the West, commeth Marchants,

Drapers and Chapmen to buy & sell; amongst which resort, these sixe Marchants, William, Otho, Iohn, Walter, Oliuer, and Robert, being from their owne homes, on their iourney, at Taunton, by great fortune happily met, glad of one the others companie; hauing taken their Inne early, they bespake their Diets to sup together, spending the time at bowles and other sports, til it was ready, as frollick and merry as euer they had bene, none of them sparing, hauing all wealth sufficient: The next day to Bristow they came, where they lodged orderly together, for no friends acquaintance might part them. Night approching, & their busines for that time ended, VVilliam was by a Mercer of London, inuited to the Horsehead a Tauerne, to supper, which hee refused, saying; If I come, I must bring my good friends and companions with me, for we go togither. Content (qd. the Mercer) you shall all be welcome. Whome William sought, and toke them with him to the place appointed; where his friend the Mercer and other Londoners met them. To supper they goe, where wanted no cheare, wine, nor dainty Musicke, to whose company the Westerne Merchants were very welcome; supper ended, some betoke them to dice, others to dance, as best liked them. William, Oliuer, and Robert standing vale; seeing money so plentifull, and gamesters so francke, fell in amongst the companie; where the Dice running crosse, Robert and Oliuer were quit of all their Coyne, VVilliam holding his owne in reasonable manner.

The Londoners which were winners krumped them, and were pleasant; amongst which, one challenged VVilliam, to throw one cast for all his money before him, which was a good summe; which Offer, Oliuer and Robert would haue taken, offering to pawne their wares in the hall to make it good, scorning to be braued by their betters. But William was the man they shot at, whom they entended to giue as drie a shauing as his companions. VVilliam perceiuing whereat they aymed, was more moued with his companions that sought to hinder him, then with the others: & in choller thrust his money from him, challenging the proudest to couer it: who gaping for the

money

money, making a sure reckoning it was their owne, were striuing who should be the man: which VVilliam seeing, laughed heartily, saying: By the holye Trinitie, I neuer saw carrion Crowes more greedie, then these good fellowes eke my money: which winne (qd. VVilliam) and in Gods name take it; when that is lost, if lost it will bee, I haue yet in money and credit with my Neighbours, a thousand Crownes more, which you shall haue amongst you.

The Gamesters seeing his courage, left contending, couered the golde, for which VVilliam had a chance, and won it; whereat his companions showted. This losse set our Gallants in a heate, which VVilliam perceiuing, thus cooled: Gentlemen, we are poore men of the West, and you of the famous Citie; yet all subiects to our Soueraigne, friends I trust we are, if not, say so. Care that will: Heare you friendes, square not without cause, our money you wonne, and with good will had it, then be as well content to lose; if you be not well, loe there it lies pawne it, and a gods name winne it and weare it: if we lose this, we shall not beg to our homes.

The Londoners seeing his gallant minde, commended him for his bountie, loath to be braued, put their heapes to one, and had a chaunce for it. VVilliam minding to trie what was in them, offered a thousand Crownes, praising his chance, either win the horse (qd. he) or lose the saddle; fortune cannot beggar vs with one throw at Dice: away the Boate, and a straw for a pecke of Ryalls. VVilliam shewing so pleasant a minde, and franke to the standers by, was wished well of all the whole companie: but his iollitie quelled his Gamesters, that they durst not praise their chances. The worse for William whose fortune was to winne their monies, and had all on the bord in his possession, which with frowning countenances, his fellow Gamesters maligned; which William perceiuing, thus cheared. Gentlemen, you haue made vs poore men good cheare, bestowing on vs, Fidlers fare, meate, drinke, and money: for your sporte we thanke you: and that you may know, we trauellers of the West be good fellowes, wishing no mans harme

that would vs well, the shot I will pay: Friends we met, and so wish to continue. Hoast take heere your principall you drew, and Robert yours: this hundreth pounds shall buy my loane pinnes; for the rest Gentlemen, if you scorne not a good fellowes proffer, share it amongst you that be losers.

The Londoners which were farre spent in this brauerie, gaue him thankes: Others better able to beare their losses, in scorne refused his proffer; yet with a little intreatie, wonne to take it, but generally, the whole companie admired and praised VVilliam: who bestowed on them a costly banquet, rewarded the Musitians, largely payed the House and Attendants. For that time parting companie, with thanks to VVilliam for his large gifts.

CHAP. XI.

How *William* in his iourney homewards was robbed, and how for a couple of Connyes he made in merriment his *Companie* pay his losses.

WIlliam and his Companions ending their businesse, take their iourney by Bathe, where pleasantly they spent a day or two feasting and making merrie with their friendes. From thence to VVeiles, and so to Bridgewater, ouer the Downe called Poldonne; a place often frequented with such as lighten honest Trauellers of their monies. These good fellowes passing the Downe, the way faire and greene, and they pleasantly discoursing. VVilliam of a necessarie businesse, was enforced to stay behinde: wherein being earnestly imployed, came to him three tall fellowes well appointed, with short Swords and bucklers, commanding him to deliuer his money. William being thus surprized on the sudden, nothing daunted with their words, presently said. It is done like cowards and not men, to take mee at such aduantage. Now I see the olde Prouerbe verified, It is easie killing a mans taile when his hose are downe.

If you bee men, as you haue the forme of men, shewe me faire

faire play and do your worst. The theeues hearing him so pleasant, though their haste to be gone was great, dreading his company should rescue him, would trie what was in him, setting so good a face on it, willed him to chuse his first man, and best do, best haue. William hearing such good words from so bad mindes, tooke his Capcase from his Saddle bow, setling himselfe to such weapons as he had. Good fellowes (quoth he) for Gentlemen I scorne to name you: that you may say hereafter, you met with a true man and a good fellow, there lieth my money, twentie pounds I take it: on this condition, that if I hurt or foyle this good fellow, the money to be mine without more adoe or further chalenge of any of you: if I receiue the like, the money is yours, & much good may it do you: with this consent of both parties, to it they went. William being a very tall man, held him play vntill his sword brake, when closing with him, VVilliam shewing a Deuonshire tricke, laid him flat on his backe, and might haue slaine him, had not his fellowes bin so neare. With this the fray ended, and William craued leaue to passe with his money according to promise: which they deliuered. William hauing it at his Saddle bow readie to take horse, two of them holding him fast by the armes, said. (Gentleman) I doubt not but you will confesse to your friends, we haue vsed you as our honest promise was, you haue your money and we all good friends: which considered, though our wants be great, yet euery honest man is their words maister: we will not steale, for that is forbidden: marrie we haue here two good Rabbets, which you shall buy. William hearing the theeues talke so much of honestie, blessing himselfe, saith: When the Fore preacheth, beware the Geese. My masters (quoth he) I haue farre home, and my diet prouided in euery Inne if I haue money, I haue no vse for your Rabbets, therefore seeke some other chapman. By our Lady (quoth the theeue) but you shall. Nay if you sweare (said William) I am content so your price be reasonable. What must I pay? all the money in your Capcase (quoth they) therefore dispatch, for we haue businesse. Dispatch (quoth William) no hast but good: I must

haue

haue some more time to view my commoditie before I pay my money. With that they laid all hands vpon him to binde him, vnto which he was loath to subiect himselfe: wherefore willed them to take his money and let him go: to which, though they they were loath to agree, yet vpon his oath that he should not pursue them, they shaked the money into their hat and had him farewell.

William hauing his Rabbets, the dearest commoditie he euer bought, rattleth after his company, who missing him, as the vse of a thiefe is, feared his comming, vnto whom he shewed no marke of discontent, but saluting, said: You my maisters of Barrestable and Fuercombe, being so neare, make haste to be with your wiues, and misse all good bargaines: see what I haue bought to make my Loane merrie when I come home. Nay quoth one, though they be good and well worth the carriage, yet will they not keepe so farre, the weather being so hote. Therefore let vs eate them to dinner, and be merry together before we part. Eat them quoth William, soft sirs, they cost me more. Why said they, you shall haue as much as they cost you with thankes. You say like honest men, said William, let vs ride no further then Bridgewater to night, and take my bargaine, on this condition you pay me what they cost, and my selfe go cleare for buying and cariage. To which they all assented, and forward they set a round pace to Bridgewater, where they dined, bespake good cheare for supper, where the Rabbets were a dish: enuited their friends of the Towne, with whom they were very merrie at supper. William often demaunding how they liked their cheare, which they all commended. The guest gone, a reckoning was called and the host payed. Now Signior William (quoth Oliuer) what cost ỹ Rabbets? and wel remembred said Otho, we had like to haue forgotten them. Yea had said William, that is all one, forbearance is no quittance: giue me my present money as your promise was, and after I will bestow on you to bedward a gallon of the best wine in the towne. You will gaine much by that said Robert. Yet to lose I will do it. Tell vs then (quoth Walter) what cost they?

My

My maisters I doubt not but you will all beleeue me speaking on my credit, twentie pounds they cost me, and some odde money, how much I do not perfectly remember: wherefore pay me twentie pounds, and let the rest go. Muse not at my large account, for your haste was cause thereof: leauing me in such manner without regard: recounting all that hapned betweene the theeues and him. Whereat though they were ashamed, and more greeued for the daunger he was in, they could not forbeare to laugh. Well my maisters said William, leaue on, you shall not scape one penny better cheape: for as I am an honest man, you shall pay it, to teach you leaue your honest friends hereafter, whose life was by your negligence in great hazard. So iustly sharing the twentie pounds amongst them, turning it to a iest, with a good will they deliuered it. William called for his gallon of wine promised, which they merrily drunke to wash downe the Rabbets: and the next morning when they had rid three or foure houres together as their way lay, they parted euery man to his home faithfull friends, and true louers one of the other.

CHAP. XII.

How these famous Marchants for wrongs done them by the Frenchmen, equiped twelue ships of worth, by authoritie of the King, and their successe.

THe French men in times past, hauing secret conuie against our Nation, some discord hapning betweene the Kings of both the Realmes: great broyles were in hand on either partie, and many outrages by land and sea committed, the poore Marchants euer hauing the worst, whose goods were taken, rifled and solde, without recompence. Amongst those which had great cause to complaine of their losse, the Marchants of Exeter and the Westerne parts, had not their parts least: being men of trade, aduenturing

uenturing euery where, lost much: so long endured without redresse, that vered thereat, and some of them neare vndone, by humble suite to the King, obtained Letters of Reprisall, to serue against those and their Adherents which spoiled them: whereupon the Marchants of Exeter furnished and manned in warlike manner, five tall ships, at their owne proper charge: of which Fleete, they made choise of William for Admirall: who having the charge, minding carefully to accomplish what he had vndertaken, sent vnto his Consorts of the other Townes, requesting their companies and aide: who willing to accompany their friend, as also to recouer part of their losse, furnished in like manner, other five ships, themselues seruing for Captaines of their owne goods.

William having the charge of Generall, with such countenance demeaned himselfe, valiant and courteous, that euery man presaged good successe in his fortunes: that sundrie Gentlemen and men of valour made suite for to accompanie him.

William carefull of what he had in hand, having the most his owne charge, slacked no time: but hearing of the arrinal of his Fleete at Dorthmouth, the place appointed of meeting, frolikes with his friends, viewing & mustring their companies, which were all goodly men, and well furnished. Not long after a faire winde blowing, to the fauour of God they commended their actions, and the equitie of their cause: putting forward with great resolution to the sea. At their going forth, taking their farewell after the manner of such seruice, as all the country admired and cheared their friends which were beholders thereof.

These Gallants leauing our owne coast, according to directions, plied for Bellisle the trade, and other places fit to find their enemies. Of whose being vpon the Coast, the Admiral of France was aduertised, who by chance was then in the Road of Charleboyes, sharing English goods lately taken: and hearing of these warlike shippes, in the night fell lower to the mouth of the riuer, and in the morning taking the aduantage

of

of the Tyde, came to Sea. Where shortly by our Fléte, which loked sharply out for them, they were discouered, and a vielve taken of their Fléte, which were twise as many, and more goodly Shippes: but William resolued to see their courage and trie it: after hee had called his Fléte together, and giuen direction for the fight; assured of his companie, and their faithfull industrie, prouided euery way fit for the same, they Bare with the French, displaying Saint George ouer their Moppes. The Frenchmen seing these Gallants, rather thought them mad then otherwise; so to Bord them, hauing the odes, especially on their owne Confines, stod with them, entending to haue compassed the whole Fléte, and so to haue made quicke dispatch: Bording them, and carrying them away, wherein they were deceiued. For William came with more resolution, as they afterwards found to their cost. Our Fléte comming vp with them, after a Defiance with Trumpet giuen, William and his Vize Admirall Oliuer, thrust amongst the Fléte, and in despite Borded the Admirall, and take the Generall into their owne Shippe, leauing some men abord to kepe her; and sending the Frenchmen all away with their Boates to seke their Fortunes. This onset beginning with god successe, added courage to our companies, and greatly discomforted the French, hauing lost their Admirall. Yet continued the fight very hotly foure or fiue houres: In which time many of the French lay drenched in the deepe, both men and Shipps. William képing his owne, who was so well followed by his Companions, that the French wearied with the Fight, and their hope past hope to escape, William and his companie hauing the aduantage of the shore, lying betwéne them and the Sea, yéldes themselues to his mercie: of whom being possest, hee take the principall men Prisoners, made choyse of the best Shippes, and manned them with their Ordinance, such Marchandise and money, whereof they had aboundance abord: freed many Englishmen they had taken: sinking the most part of their ships, sauing the worst to carrie men a shore. Which done, in despite of those on land, which

should contradict his doings, went into the road of Conquest, fired the ships in the Roade; and brought two Galleys away. This finished, when he had houered vpon the Coast 2. whole weekes, to see if any durst come and finde fault with what was done; with great wealth and more honour to the countrey, he returned to Dartmouth, recompencing his companie, well satisfied for their losse, and rich hoaring the Kings Treasure, to the good liking of his Maiestie, who gaue them many thanks: and generall ioy of the whole Land, whose honour it was.

CHAP. XIII.

How *Ioane Williams* wife, for sundrie madde partes played, could not endure her seruant *James*; and his departure to *Spaine*.

MIstresse *Ioane* growing now to more reckoning of herselfe, standing on her Husbands aduancement; being Maister Captains wife, expected from her Neighbours more honour then had of custome beene tendered, especially of her seruants: which *James* her man perceiuing, scorned to doe as she commanded, being the eldest seruant, the principall dealer for his Maister, hauing charge of all: which Mistresse *Ioane* stomacked much, & often would crosse him with taunting speeches, not forgetting the knauish prancke played betweene his Maister & her: albeit she concealed the same. Amongst manie the mad tricks *James* offered his Mistresse, this one she tooke most exceptions at. In the time of her Husbands absence, her selfe lying in of a young sonne, many her neighbors banqueted with her, as the custome is in that country, at which time with other *Williams* friendes, sundrie the best in the Citie oft time, to *William* had themselues to Supper; against whose comming, all dainty vyands that money or friends could procure was prouided, all things fit to content: on these Guests, *Ioane* gaue strict charge, diligent attendance by her seruants be giuen for the better credit of their Maister and themselues: which they promised to doe. The Guests set, & their Cates orderly

verie serued; Iames wayted in good sort, yet not to Mistresse Ioanes content, hauing many to imploy: some by chance wanted cleane Trenchers, for which, shee toke occasion in open presence to checke her man Iames, commaunding him to see if there wanted nothing on the Table: and willed him to bring in a Whele barrow, to carry away the Bones and foule trenchers. Iames hereat moued, followed her counsell, like a diligent seruant, ranne hastily for the same, and brought it to the Table. At which Feast the company had good sport, and long time busied them with laughter. But Mistresse Ioane seeing her selfe before her Friendes so scorned, frowned, pewted, and swelled on Iames, and hardlie could forbeare weeping: yet let it passe amongst many other prankes, vntill her Husbands returne from Seas: vnto whom with teares, she complained her of sundry wrongs done by her seruant Iames. Which William like a kinde Master, hauing his youth, and good seruice he had receiued from him, sought to pacifie with gentle wordes: perswading his Wife to the like. Which Ioane hearing, passing the bounds of modestie; she protested, that if he kept him longer in his house, he accoũted more of him then of his wife: nor might she be brought otherwise to beleeue: and so vowed, that either one or other of (them two, must part) if William intended to liue in quiet. William wisely weying the benefite of so good a seruant, was loath to leaue him, vntill by continuall clamours of his wife he was enforced: whom to content, he found meanes to send Iames his man to the Ports of Cales, and S. Lucas in Spaine; with his marchandise that he had then shipped, as Marchant and chiefe Factor: on which motion made to Iames by his Maister, and assurance there to continue three yeres, which was all the time he had to serue, Iames was well pleased, being perswaded of his Maisters loue, how much soeuer he was discontent with his Wife, whose enuie he was assured to be principall cause thereof: which with patience hee toke in as good part as he could, prouiding himselfe to go with the Ship; which being readie, his Maister deliuered him his Chartre-partie, & Billes of lading, with many good and graue

aduertiſements; So taking his Farewell of Maiſter and Miſtreſſe, and all his other fellow Seruants, he left behind him this Adieu in writing, and ſo betoke him to his affaires.

Though parting be mourning
Where Friendſhip is deere:
Yet better be packing,
Then ſtay longer heere.

Our *William*, ſweete *William*,
Is matched with *Ione*,
Whoſe will, not *Williams*,
Doth cauſe me to mone.

The wrath of a woman,
May no man endure:
For where they maligne,
Their woe they procure.

Experience hath taught it,
And true it doth proue:
The Diuell and a woman
Seld conquerd by Loue.

A woman Enuious,
VVhoſe chaunce is to wedde:
Were better be troubled
With a Diuell in his bedde.

Therefore my good Fellows,
From whom I muſt part:
Forget not to learne,
This Leſſon by hart,

Whatſoeuer your Maiſter
Appoint to be donne:
Regard your Miſtreſſe,
If blowes you will ſhunne.

The *Night Crowes* fauour,
Seeke you to obtaine:
More ſhall be your quiet,
But better your gaine.

For women how euer
They chance ſpeake you faire;
VVill alwayes be readie
Your woes to prepare.

If in the leaſt ſort
You croſſe their intent;
They'le die in the quarrell
But they'le cauſe you be ſhent

Say *Iames* for his Farewell
This Leſſon doth giue:
And pleaſe your Miſtreſſe,
So long as you liue.

How

CHAP. XIIII.

¶ How the Kings Armie marched to *Exeter*, to relieue the Citie, beſieged by the *Corniſh* Rebelles.

AMongſt ſundry Tumults and Rebellious aſſemblies, wherewith in times paſt this Lande was afflicted, a route of Traytors were gathered togither in the Weſt; verie mightie was their power, and their Tyrannie more, who ſpared not to waſte, Spoyle, and Ruinate, all along the whole Countrey, as they marched togither, without regard of God, Prince, or naturall affection of that Clymate were they receiued life. The Tyrannie of theſe Rebels bruted throughout the Countrey, euery man fled for ſafegard of their liues, wiues, and children to the noble Citie of Exeter, as a place of Sanctuary from thoſe blod-thirſtie Reprobates: Where the Rebells followed with their mercileſſe Armie, and with ſtrong Siege begyrt it; vſing all poſſible meanes they could, by force and pollicie, to gaine the poſſeſſion thereof: which in vaine they practiſed, many aſſaults they made, which were manfully reſiſted by the honourable and true Liegemen, Citizens of the ſame; and ſundrie valiant and daungerous Sallies made by them vpon the Enemie, weakening their forces with great ſlaughter, and pulling from them of their ſtore of Victualls, to relieue their wants, which were very manie and great: yet diſmayed they not, but continued their defence with great valour, and euerlaſting honour vnto them. In this time of Trouble, was William called to high Office amongſt them, in his owne perſon doing great and worthy ſeruice, to the incouragement of the multitude: whome of his owne bounty and charge of Victualls he relieued: ſauing their liues, both by valour and liberall ſtore of prouiſion, Famine had ſo generally poſſeſſed the ſame.

Of theſe outrages by the Rebels committed, the King was

nouertised, who gratiously tendering their distresse, and pitying those his louing subiects, whose valour and constancie to him was such, speedily leuied a power of men at armes, and with such hastie iournies as was requisite, marched towards Exeter for their releese. Of whose comming, the Rebels hauing knowledge, like a rable of faint harted miscreants, raised their siege, and departed with bagge and baggage. The tydings of whose departure, by Postes to his highnesse was signified, who notwithstanding continued his iourney to Exeter, to see their battered walles, and by his presence to encourage them and others his subiects to like loyaltie, if such chaunces should happen. Unto whom his Maiestie was most ioyfully welcommed, as appeared by their entertainment: which was graciously accepted, as by his honourable thankes giuen did appeare.

CHAP. XV.

How *William* and his companions, *Oliuer*, *Otho*, and the rest, to make the King sport, chalenged all commers, at wrestling, foote-ball, and hurling, which he performed.

THe King whose countenance hath purchased the Cities libertie, reposed him amongst those his loyall subiects of Exeter: who to shew their loue, inabled their greatest diligence.

Amongst which, William and Oliuer, whose wealth was matchlesse, and best able to performe what they vndertooke: entending to shewe their Countries accustomed exercises of actiuitie before his Highnesse, made generall challenge throughout the Countrey of Deuon, and Cornwall, 24 men, to 2. chuse them where they could, at Exeter before the King, on a day prefired, at these sports, viz wrestling, hurling, and foote-ball. This challenge giuen out, William that had his felicitie in keeping men of actiuitie, chiefly excelled in these qualities: sent likewise to his friends, Walter of Totnes, Otho of Plymoth, Iohn of Barnestable,

and

and Robert of Tyuerton, to furnish him with such men as they could of their owne, which were able to maintaine the chalenge. Who hauing notise thereof, and knowing the assured day, sayled not their old friend William, but accordingly brought to Exeter twelue good men of theirs, to ioyne with William and his twelue. To encounter which, according to the proclamation, repaired to Exeter many worshipfull Gentlemen, with their followers, and sundry chiefe and well experienced in those qualities. William and his companions, willing to encourage their people, hath for the purpose, against the first day, suted all their company in Crimson Satten, with scarlet Cappes and Feathers, vnder which, euery man to play in, wore a Mascoate of like coloured Taffata. The time assigned come, and the King taking his place to behold this exercise of wrestling, appointed for the first dayes passime, William and his friends aboue named, apparelled in Coats of black Veluet and Chaines of Gold, accompanied with many Whifflers to guard the place, marched on to the Greene called Southing-Hay, without the Citie walles, followed with his appointed troupes, attyred as you haue heard: who taking their places, were instantly followed by the Country men. Then to answere them, apparelled in suites of purple Satten, and ledde by a Knight of great name, who passing by his highnesse place, bowed themselues, and marching once or twice about the rayles take their stands, opposed with the Citizens. This done, proclamation was made for the quiet of the Gamesters, who proceeded to their passimes, wherein of both sides was shewed many manful feates, and slights of policie, to his Maiesties great pleasure: who by generall voyce of the whole company, gaue the honour of that dayes exercise, to Williams Prentises and their fellowes. Which done, they marched away in order as they came, the Citizens tryumphing for their successe.

The next day at the houre appointed, the King being placed, William with his company marched in like manner to the field, who were apparelled in Mascoates, and hose of white

Taffata, with wrought Nightcaps on their heads, readie to their pastime of hurling, And the defendants in watched Taffata, likely suted. Where betweene them, much valour and agilitie of bodie was shewed, as leaping, vaulting, running and wrestling, wherein they excelled: and for their cunning, of the King worthily praised and rewarded, who highly commended the sport, wishing all his subiects such as they were.

This daies honour to the Prentises was likewise adiudged: who like Victors left the field this second day, to the great contentment of William and his followers.

The third daies sport which was foote ball, appointed to be performed, William and his comperes marched to the field, his companies apparelled as before, in red and blew Taffata, and the Country defendants, in Orenge Tawny. No sooner entered they the field, their duties done, and the players stripped, the King to doe them grace and encourage them to their play, caused a Noble man of his traine to cast vp their Ball, which came no sooner on the ground, but was taken at aduantage: then began the strength and nimblenesse of men to be tried, with lifting, throwing, & casting one the other, some with violence, others with fine sleights, generally commended, continuing their sport without victory on either side, along time, vntill by vnhappie chance, one of Williams company, a proper man, and a Gentleman borne, was with a fall from a lustie mans armes, vnfortunately slaine. This Tragedie more greeued the King and all his company, then any thing, who commaunded their pastime to cease, adiudging the honour to Exeter Citizens, yet recompenced royally the defendants, and gaue them many gracious speeches of commendation: but sorrowed more for the slaine Gentleman, then for the losse of a million of Golde. The Gentleman he caused with great pompe to be enterred, and gaue the prize euer after to Deuonshire and Cornewall, for those exercises: which continue them matchlesse to this day.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

¶ How the Cardinall for some speciall businesse, leauing his Highnes at *Exeter*, departed towards *London*.

THe Cardinall then Legate from the Pope, accompanying the King on his Iourney, hearing of letters, and some spiritual Ambassage arriued, tooke leaue of his Highnesse, for his Iourney to London; whome to accompany, William and his fellow Aldermen of the Citie addressed themselues ryding on, pleasantly discoursing of their pastimes and entertainment, vntill they came to the bounds, markes of the Cities libertie, which the Cardinall taking notice of, saide; Gentlemen I perceiue that here your liberties end, wherefore I will trouble you no further. Returne backe I beseech you, and accept acknowledge my dutie to the King. VVilliam being of more spirit then many of the others, that thought not on their paines, in a pleasant humour thus said.

Pleaseth your Grace to pardon vs, though heere ende our Cities Liberties, yet we may bring our friends further, and therefore will bring your Holinesse to the Gallowes, and there leaue you: meaning a place of execution, distant from the Citie a mile and better.

The Cardinall taking his words apart, saide: No, no, my Maisters, turning it to a iest, without any exceptions, and accepted their companies to that place: in which way thitherward, the Cardinals horse chanced to drinke in a brooke, where his horse so pleasantly conceited, would faine haue drunke, but he restrained him: which the Cardinall perceiuing, said: Sir, why let your horse haue his drinke.

Pleaseth your Grace (quoth he) he shall not drinke before your Graces horse hath done. At which the Cardinal laughed hartily, saying: Sir, I know not how to requite this great kindnesse, but if euer your horse come where mine may shew

like curtesie, assure you, your horse shall drinke first, in despite of his teeth.

Thus passed they on the way merily, to their iourney appointed, to bring his Holinesse: where the Cardinall remembring his friends kinde proffer, said,

Syr, I take it, this is the place, where by couenant wee must bid farewell: wherefore I thanke you for my great cheere and sport, and for your paines. This is the Gallowes I take it, whither since you would needes accompany me, heere I meane to leaue you; and so to you all gentle Friendes farewell. Whereto with most friendly and louing embracings, they left the Cardinall to his iourney, and the Citizens returned to Exeter; whereas the king they recounted what happened them: who tooke great pleasure therein, and often would vse in merriment the parting of the Cardinall, with the Citizens. Who a weeke after, feasted his Highnesse and his Traine, and so with great thanks left them.

CHAP. XVII.

¶ How *Iames Williams* seruant accompanied the Dukes of *Medina* and *Florence*, at play, and how *Iames* at one cast, lost fiftie thousand Duckets.

IAmes the first seruant of VVilliam, continuing long in Calis and Saint Lucas, on his Maisters businesse, by his good carriage and gentle behauiour had more credit then all the English Marchants there resident, or thither Trading: not onely with the Countrey, but with the Duke of Medina, who continually vsed Iames as a companion at all exercises, or play whatsoeuer: such was his bountie and courture, who thought himselfe a Spanish Duke, or a Noble man at least. Fauour of all Estates he had as worthily deserued: his Purse euer pleint to the poore, who euer sought him in distresse, whether Stranger or English, felt his bountie.

These

These good partes of Iames, gained him loue and fauour especially with the Duke, who being a prince of a noble mind, fauoured no Nation like the English, or had pleasure with any but them. Frolike he was in their company, commending their bountie, and wondring at their costly fare and Attire, which would cause him manie times to leaue his owne Table, and omit himselfe to their Diet, gracing them more then all Nations with his presence.

The Noble Duke, who by often resorting to their house, at sundrie times, had noted their seuerall dispositions, & highly commended them, purposed to trie at full what was in them, hauing on a time the Duke of Florence in his Courte, vnto whome he had liberally spoken our English mens praise: and that he might better credit his speech, he ordained a most costly Banquet; to which hee inuited the chiefest of our English Marchants: amongst which, Don Iaques de Wglecerc, for so he named him, was not forgotten.

Iames, which cared not for coyne, but waged his countreys honor, against the prefired time, suted himselfe very richly after our countrey fashion; and with his companions to the Court is come: where with great welcomes of both Dukes they were entertained, and Feasted most costlie, with rare Cates, and spending the time of dinner with mirth, and much pleasant Parley.

Dinner ended, to sundry sports they fell: some dance, some discourse, other court the Dames. Iames and other two of his companions, accompany the Dukes at dice; betweene them was very great Game, and store of money on eache side walking. The Duke setting great summes which was neuer refused. The Duke of Medina perceiuing it, thought verily to make them turne crauen. Being somewhat discontent, losing so much, and seiue Crownes before him, pulled a Iewell from his chaine, valued at fiftie thousand Duckets, daring in high tearmes, the proudest Englishman to throw at it. This sterne chalenge of the Duke, dismayed our Gallants, who looking one on the other, strained curtesie who should accept it,

none so hardie to aduenture thereon, the value being so great, all their substance not able to countervaile it, and loath to lie in Prison for a cast at dice.

Iames noting the timorousnes of his Companions, cheering their faint spirites, said.

Countreymen, what all amort? hath one prouds word ouerthrowne you, that hitherto scorned to be dared: but like true Liegemen to our King, hath maintained his and our countreys honour? No gallants no, were his King here, and would pawne his Crowne, making so peremptory a chalenge, my selfe would giue the aduenture thereon; if Life, goods, or Credite would answere the losse thereof. Therefore Saint George England's honoured Patrone, (quoth Iames) I am the man: and stepping to the table, clapped hand on the Iewel, and couered it with his pawne: promising to make good, the valued summe of fiftie thousand Duckets, if he lost it: which the Duke accepted.

But in vnhappie time for Iames, who lost by fortune of the Dice at that throwe, not onely all the wealth hee had gained, but his Maisters Starke, and all the goods he had of other Marchaunts, to deale for as Factor: all which neuer daunted his courage, nor could the Duke perceiue in his countenance any change, but with great chearefulnes drewe the money he had of his owne, and borrowed of his companions all they had about them; hee paide it in part, pawning his honest word for the rest, to bee satisfied within tenne dayes next following. Which done, spending some time in Banketting, they toke their leaues, all the companie grieued in heart for Iames, who in that humor had vtterly vndone himselfe.

Iames recouering his Lodging, heauie in heart, although hee were light of substance; beganne to consider of his estate, it grieued him more for his good Friendes in England, his Maister, and such, whose goods hee had lost, then for himselfe. In these Passions of discontent, when hee had a while, (like one lost from himselfe) remained, chearing his spirites, hee thus saide.

Base

Base peasant, vnworthy the name of Englishmã: what dishonor were it for thée and thy Nation, if thy cowards thoughts by these proud Spaniards could be perceiued? accountest thou more of trash then thy countries honour? for shal this pelfe alter thy former contented humour, drawing thy pleasant conceited minde, to a labyrinth of cares, & so quite ouerthrow thy selfe? No, no, cease to sorrow, a pound of care neuer paid one ounce of debt. Let this be thy comfort: thou wast for the time, companion to the greatest Prince in Spaine, then fall not to dispaire, quiet thy thoughts, follow thy businesse, and satisfie the Duke: least this more disgrace thy countrey for none payment, then the insolēt Spaniards, hath gained wealth by his Indies. Tis farre better to die a begger in thine owne countrey, then here to be disgraced, and discountenanced: the which all those Gallants of my countrey, that shal come hereafter into these Confines, with Millions of gold cannot redeeme. Bestir thée then, make sale of thy goods, call for thy debts, & hauing the summe, glut the miser Duke with golde, though hereafter thou starue.

Thus said, leaning his studie, with diligence he applied him, against this promised time to procure the money, which by his friends he conueyed to the Dukes house, where he tendered the vtmost farthing.

The Duke of a milde and honourable inclination, bethinking him what a great losse it was for a Marchant, tendering his estate when he had sundry waies discoursed with him, caused his Steward to returne him the one halfe of his money, deuiding it betweene them: which lames tooke in great scorne, and more grieued to be found other in the latter ende, then at the beginning: yet with courtesie and thankes returned the same: saying to his companions, That neuer Spaniard should report he was Benefactor to an Englishman. So taking leaue of the Dukes of Medina & Florence, departed to his lodging, lamented of those Princes for his losse: but highly honoured for his magnanimitie and haughtie spirit, which made the Dukes censure him, to be doubtlesse, the sonne of some mightie Potentate, how basely so euer shrowded in those his accustomed attires.

CHAP.

A pleasant discourse of five gallant

CHAP. XVIII.

How *Iames* trauelling from *Cales* to Saint *Lucas*, encountered a gallant Lady, widow of a Spanish Caualeere of great honour.

IAmes this Deuonshire gallant, hauing finished with the Duke, and passed all accounts with his friends, satisfying all such summes at full which he had taken vp, for clearing this great sum, had notise of the arriuall of certaine English ships at Cheries. To which place he hired a guide and post horse to heare the newes from England: taking his adieu of his companions, away he goeth, onely accõpanied with his guide. So long trauelling, that his horse being wearie, desired his Maisters lodging in the fields, for lodging that night he was not likely to recouer: his guide fearing some hard measure, being better horst left him, thorow his threatning speech, which brought him to a very melancholy humour. While he was debating with himselfe what should betide him that night, hauing brought himselfe within such a Thicket or Groue of Orenge, Lemmon, or Pomgranat trees, casting vp his eyes betweene the glimsing of the light, he espied a gallant Caualeere brauely mounted, vpon a swift running Genat.

This sight happning in a place so suspitious, more appalled him then the losse of his money, dreading more company and bad conditions, of some lurking theeues to take away his life: yet arming himselfe with courage, resolued to make them buy it dearely, if they did not ouermatch him: determining with himselfe for his owne safetie, he came nearer to his suspected enemie, who crossed him the way betweene the trees in such manner, as might driue a man to doubt.

Iames comming vp to him, and hauing a vigilent eye, espied at his saddle bowe a Case of Pistolles, and a Case of Rapiers by his side, shewing in his countenance a sterne and hea-

nie

nie woke, which made him more mistrust, not without cause, holding on his course with such spéd as his tired Jade would make: (at length well ouertoke) the Spaniard hauing séene Iames, making lesse haste for his company: being met, according to the Spanish fashion, great welcomes is enterchanged with the Basilanus Manus, the Spaniard passing easily by him, desiring his companie, and questioning him of what countrey and profession he was.

Iames that neuer feared or shamed the name of Englishman, told him what he was, and how by villainie of his guide, he was thus distressed. Which the Spaniard hearing, tendered his estate being a strãger, sweating by his fathers beard (for he had none of his owne) that could he tell how to méete the villains that offered the wrong, he would reuenge it on him with his life. This courtesie deserued thankes: which Iames very thankfully rendered him: yet trusted nothing more his good words: passing on the way, diuersly discoursing, the Spaniard courteous in words said.

(Gentleman) albeit I haue bene no farre traueller, the better to yéeld the dutie thereunto appertaining, yet the law of humanitie tieth men by reason, one man to tender other in distresse: what my good or bad fortune may be, tis best knowne to him that guideth mens thoughts. I may perchance, be likewise distressed as you are now, where I should be glad of fauour. If therefore you dare commit the charge of your selfe to my company, I will be this night your conduct and warrantise from all harmes: your hoast a worthy Gentleman, and my very good friend, dwelling in these vallyes: where how euer you fare, your welcome shall be good, and so much the better welcome to my selfe, being of that famous Countrey of England.

Iames, that with Spanish courtesie could not be ouermatched, returned great thankes for so kinde an offer, howsoeuer he was affected to take or refuse it: holding it small wisedome to accept euery kinde proffer of straungers, for feare of repentance: yet when he had considered how comfortlesse he was

left, with the perill he was subiect to, lying all night in those Desarts, rather consented to yeld his lifes safetie to men endued with reason, then hazard it amongst unreasonable beasts: wherefore commending his safetie to his power, gainst whom no enemie hath resistance, with many kinde thankes accepted the Spaniards favour, & accordingly was brought by him to the mansion of a very braue Gentleman: who hearing of their arriuall, commanded their horses to be well ordered: themselues by the Maister and Lady of the place, with more then ordinarie entertainment.

The Mistresse of the house and her daughters, keeping them company in their chamber, while their supper was purueying, where in pleasant discoursing, commending one the others Countrey, Iames for fashions sake praising the courtesie of Spaine, and the Spaniards the gallantnesse of England, and our Countreymen.

CHAP. XIX.

How *Iames* lay with the Spaniard his companion, and found him to be a woman.

THeir repast taken, and the night growing on, euery man requiring rest, a seruant of the house appointed for that seruice, demaunded if they pleased to lodge together, or haue their beds sunderly prepared: which question, Iames gaue the Spaniard leaue to answere, as best acquainted in the house, and loth to offend with boldnesse, any one, especially him who had prouided him of so good an hoast.

The Spaniard hauing in his owne choise, to take a bedfellow, said: Gentle Englishman, seeing you haue put it to my direction, and the weather requireth warme lodging, let it please you, to accept me for your bedfellow this night, so shall our ease be the more, and the seruant of the house lesse troubled.

Thankes

Thanks good ſir quoth Iames) for this great fauour, which I am carefull how to deſerue: beſides my payment, which I will largely in the houſe diſcharge.

Syr (quoth he) our Hoaſt is a Gentleman, bountifull, and courteous, who in his owne kinde nature, doth hold it meritorious to entertaine ſtrangers; eſpecially ſuch as are diſtreſſed.

While they were at this Parley, word was brought them, their Lodging was prepared, to which they prouide them. Iames and his Bedfellow contending who ſhould in courteſie make choyſe of their place; which in the end Iames proteſted ſhould be the Spaniards.

Whereupon, to bed he goeth: Iames detracting time, lingering vntill he perceiued the Spaniard quiet a ſleepe, then ſlipping off his doublet, wherein his moſt ſtore of Gold was quilted; hee priuily conueyed the ſame betweene the Mattreſſes, whereon they lay. That done, and the dores faſt made, to bedde he hyeth, not ſo eaſily, but that his comming awakened his Bedfellow.

Who very friendly bad him welcome, with whom entering into diſcourſe, the Spaniard entreated him, to ſhewe him the difference if any were, betweene the Spaniſh and his countrey Gentlewomen: which in ſuch manner by Iames was accompliſhed, as the one was not more praiſed, neither for beautie, or vertue, then the other commended: which equall iudgement, was thankfully balanced by him, that gaue him manie thanks for the ſame.

Continuing their Parley, the Spanyard vnder Benedicitie, beſought him yet further to tell him, if in time of all his ſoiourneying in Spaine, hee had not made choiſe of any one to participate with him in marriage; or if he had beſtowed his loue and liking on anie his Countrey women. All which queſtions, Iames could conceiue no reaſon of, nor to what end they were demaunded. But ſimply anſwered the truth, he neither was married, or giuen conſent to anie, but his choyſe was yet freely to be made, where fancie beſt pleaſed, and he was likelieſt to obtaine.

With this, laying his hand ouer Iames naked brest, feeling his bodie, he desired Iames to doe the like: in search whereof, he found his bedfellow a Woman: beautifull, and of an exceeding goodly personage; Iames astonied at this Metamorphosis was by her thus reuiued.

Kinde companion and courteous Englishman, let not this suddaine motion dismay thee; for no disparagement shall it be to lend thy Loue and liking (if thou canst loue) vnto me, who am honourably descended, and sometime wife to a most noble gentleman, as is any in this countrey: Sister I am to the principallest man in account with our King; by whom if thou list to loue, thy estate shalbe to honour aduanced: with my coyne, Liuing, Iewels, and Plate, I will richly endowe thee: in such abundance, that thou shalt neuer need in hazard to aduenture thy life: my people shall honor thee, and Maister shalt thou be of all my possessions. Then loue braue man, loue her that lieth in the sweete hope of thy contentment, and euer enioy the loyaltie of my true and spotlesse loue.

Iames that had many Hammers beating in his braines, was more set a worke by this vnexpected chance, loking more for death, then to purchase so good a wife, his bedfellow rather resembling a Caualiere, then a Countesse, began to listen to the swæt notes of this pleasing Nightingale, tuning such high notes of Honour, Wealth, and Wedlock, could hardly on the suddaine be wonne to credite her spæch, but rather coniectured to be some Curtizan, then a Lady of honour or worth: whereon desirous to learne further, by faire wordes, neither denying nor graunting her sute, he besought her in loue to explaine, ifor his better satisfying, the occasion of her disguise, and place of habitation, armed in such manner.

Know my deare Loue (quoth she) for so let me intreate to call thee, my husband of whom thou shalt heare much honour, when thou shalt arriue at Cherez, hauing a deadly quarrell, ah deadly, I may too well say, for to him so it proued, being by his enemies watched, as harmlesse he was following for pleasure his Hawkes, was suddenly by the wretched homicide surprised,

ſed, and by his ſlaues, bloodthirſtie villaines butchered: whoſe death in mine owne perſon, ſundry times as you ſee me diſguiſed, I ſought to reuenge, working many meanes to accompliſh my will therein, as this day I did, hauing aſſurance by ſome neare him, (which with money I haue ſuborned) to giue me intelligẽce of his trauel, which vnhappy I haue vnfortunately miſſed, to my great diſcontent. Beléeue me gentle Friend, that ſpeakes no more but truth, for no more but truth will I ſay to thée, whoſe ioy thou art, and whoſe Loue ſhall be more pleaſing then the worlds treaſurie, as thy ſelfe ſhalt manifeſt, when thou ſhalt come to thy iourneyes ende: if to Gheries bee the place thou entendeſt to goe.

Deare Loue (quoth ſhe) I am troubleſome vnto thée, which art weary and diſcontent: wherefore pardon me, and with this kiſſe, let me commit thée to thy ſweete reſt, which I hope ſhall proue both our contents.

Iames, that was not ſo bad a Pylote, but he had learned how many Anchors longed to the Trade, commended her likewiſe to reſt: albeit his owne was not like to be much, ſo many ſundry thoughts increaſing of his ſweet bedfelow, with whom he could with friendſhip to be continued, as well in regard of her perſon, as her honour & great abilitie, which more affected, conſidering his eſtate, deſirous to cleare with his good friends in England, whome in a humour he had wronged, conſuming their wealth, how euer he liketh or diſliketh, in ſpirit is he cũbred: taking it for a great fauour of God, in his diſtreſſe to giue him this comfort in iopardie of his life, in a wildernes vnfrequented, where no reliefe was to be found, by her to be fauoured and preferred; hee determined how euer, to procure her Loue, and requite it: but not with ſure promiſe to tye himſelfe, that may not in conſcience be recalled.

While he was at his Memento, in an Extaſie what ſhould betide him, the Lady awaked, imbracing him in her armes, in ſuch kinde manner and proffers of Loue, as might haue giuen life to *Pygmaleons* Image. Whether it be Engliſhmens vnkindneſſe to requite ſuch fauour with diſdaine, I referre to

your censures. But howsoeuer it fell out betweene them, the Ladie was so exceedingly well pleased, as shee loued euer after Englishmen, better then her owne Countrey-men, to her death.

The wearisome Winters night is not more displeasant to a troubled spirit, then the griefe both conceiued in enioying so short a time of familiar contentment, well content of either part, to haue entertained their hard lodging for longer time. But Iames hastening to see the end of these hoped Fortunes, desired to bee on his Iourney, though better pleased with his Spanish bedfellow, then with all his Countrey men: protesting by no small vowes, that if all Spanyards in bed brought such contentment, he would neuer desire to lye with Englishman more.

CHAP. XX.

¶ How *Iames* accompanyed the Ladie to *Cheries*, and what entertainment shee gaue him there.

THe Sunnes bright beames so gloriously displaying telleth these contented Louers the morning is farre spent, which hastned them to arise, making all the speede they could to performe their iourney: for which being prouided, Iames tendered money largely for his Expands, which of the Host and Mistresse of the house, was refused: wherefore bountifullie rewarding the seruants Attendants, they take their leaues, taking their horses, which were well refreshed, speeding with all haste to Cheries, where being arriued, Iames as it was betweene them agreed, taketh his lodging in an Ostery, by her assigned him; her selfe by a backe way, secretly conuayed to her owne house, appointing Iames to stay the comming of her Messenger, which should bee his conduct to her.

No

No sooner arriued Iames in this place of contentment, but sundry of his Country men and acquaintance he meeteth, by whom he had certaine knowledge of the welfare of his Maister and all his friends in England. With this company a while he merily conuersed, perusing his Letters, and taking order for discharge of such goods as they brought, concealing the heauinesse of his hearts sorrow, and colouring his thoughts with shewes of content.

The houre being come of appointment, when he should visit his new acquainted friend, who fayled not her time, as carefull thereof, but accordingly dispatched her conducter for her Leue lances. of whose comming, assone as Iames had knowledge, taking leaue of his companions, he followed his guide to the house of the Gentlewoman, whom in her owne forme we call Madam *Petronella*: who desires to shew all kind welcome to her friend, prouided to giue him entertainment with most costly and rare cheare, thinking all things too little, how costly so euer, that money or loue could procure, for a guest of so high extreme, which might commaund his Mistresse and all she had.

Iames that came not before he was expected, was espied a farre off, of his kind Lady *Petronella*, who attended his comming at the gate, where louingly imbracing him, she bad him most hartily welcome to his owne house: leading him by the hand to place appointed for supper. Iames seeing this straunge chaunce of his new bedfellow, being now her selfe most sumptuously apparelled and adorned with rich Iewels of great value, was striken into a dumpe, eftsones admiring her stately personage, beautie and grace, her modest countenance, and costly furniture of her mansion, which rather resembled a Paradice then any other thing.

In midst of these extremities, which reason required to ende, calling himselfe to minde, and not forgetting his dutie to the kind Lady, he rendered many thankes, returning her imbracings, with kisses, and interest, farre aboue ten in the hundred. The Lady hauing welcommed her Loue, as you haue heard,

heard, to beguile time, while supper was readie, led him to her bed Chamber, which for the rare and rich hangings of Embroidery he neuer had seene the like: in which the armes of her late husbands auncestries and her owne, was with cunning wrought, in such manner as Art could not amend. To please his minde yet farther, she openeth her Closet, her Casket of Iewels, Chests of Plate, and bagges of mony: all which, with her selfe, she againe tendered him. Long had not Iames contemplated on this heauenly blessing of God prouided for him, when word was brought that supper attended their comming on the Table, at which they past the time with much pleasant parley, but chiefly the Lady desires to discourse of English Ladies, and their guise, the maner of the Country, & such which Iames with rare perfection fitted to her content, passing from one discourse to an other, so long, that Iames calling to minde his Maister William and other good friends in England, his pleasant humour was abated, and his minde not on his halfe penny, (as our English Prouerbe is,) but studied how to satisfie them, and maintaine his credit.

To this alteration, Petronella gaue good heed, imagining that her Loue tooke little regard of all her profer, wealth, loue, or beautie, yet to bring him from his passion, she said.

Signior Iaques, since our first acquaintance, which hath not bin long, regarding thy welfare, and tendring thy good, I haue diligently noted thy person, the onely content of my soule on earth, and withall, thy melancholy disposition, and deepe fetcht sighes, to too farre vndeseeming thy selfe, which hath made me much admire, and causeth my great sorrow. The occasion whereof, if thou please to participate with me, my endeuour shall be to redresse it, if in my power it rest: if not, but that you conceale your hearts discontent, and therby fall to daungerous sicknesse, thou shalt encrease my griefe that loueth thee, and afflict on your selfe such a mischiefe as all thy friends will grieue to behold.

Pardon me deare friend (quoth she) and since thou art mute and wilt not say what thou thinkest, let me guesse, take

these

these keyes, the guard of thine owne treasury, which shall conduct thee to more coyne then all Cheryes can afford: besides my Plate and rare Iewels, (all which) with what else I possesse, bestow, sell, or otherwise imploy at thy pleasure: onely I craue, thou frolicke, and cast from thee these passions: if this will not suffice, what commodities this Countrey affordeth, bargaine for, I and my friends will furnish thee with them, on our credites: then my sweet Loue, seeing all, and all I haue is at thy commaund, leaue longer thus to care, and shew thy selfe as thou seemest, so shalt thou fill my heart with ioy, command in Cheryes, and be honoured of my Noble friendes for my sake.

Iames that with great pleasure heard the words of his sweete Lady, spoken in loue, and tender regard of his good health, was more reuiued, then Rosa solies, or Aqua Celistics a fainting spirit: for which, yeelding praise to God for his comfort in this distresse, rendering all curteous thankes to *Petronella*, whom faithfully he assured to abolish all things should be displeasing vnto her, assuring her on the faith of an Englishman, that what she would request he would fulfill: and on this proffer, a solemne vowe was consumate betweene them, violable to endure to the ende of their liues. Taking their lodging together, and full possession of all the wealth he had seene, they passed the night in content, *Petronella* blessed in her choyse: hauing some doubt, that Iames through his long abode in Spaine, had learned the manner of her Country-men, who care not for a widow in marriage, how vnworthie so euer he be, and the widowe of good account, especially the Nobles and Gentlemen.

This thought arising in *Petronella*, which was loth to exchange her Loue, caused her early in the morning to send for her Confessor vnto whom she reuealed what had past, and had absolution: by whom all rytes and holy ceremonies was in the Chamber performed betwixt them, for which he was well rewarded, and they both pleased. *Petronella* at her husbands request, entreateth the holy Father to conceale what

was done, till time should giue leaue to summon his friends to their marriage, to which he said, Amen. And taking leaue, departed to his Colledge, Iames to his Countrey-men, with whom he frolikes: Petronella to her prayers, thanking God for so good and kinde a husband.

CHAP XXI.

How *William* by one of his neighbours was aduertised of *Iames* his bad fortunes, and how *William* gaue him his answere.

It is commonly seene, that ill tydings suddenly runne farre, as by this bad fortune of Iames appeared, who hauing in his prosperitie many louing and kind friends that loued him dearely, at his downefall hath shewed themselues secret enemies, rather reioycing at his misfortunes, then any way tendering it. Amongst which enuious company, one being kinsman to a Marchant for whom William was Factor, by the first Poast aduertised in his Letters Iames his prodigalitie, particularly as it happened. The report whereof, was no sooner come, but William by his neighbour was aduertised thereof. The suddaine hearing whereof, somewhat appalled him, hauing his best part of wealth with him, yet pacifying choller, and framing himselfe to patience, he againe perused the contents of the Letters, the effect and particulars whereof, when aduisedly he considered, rather commended Iames for his good minde, doing his Country that honour, not to be dared with so great a Prince, but more admired his high spirit, scorning to receiue the one halfe offered him by the Duke. With these conceits being reasonably pacified, turning him to his neighbour thus said.

Syr, it is your bad hap to be the first messenger of any ill happe befallen me, and I pray God you may be the last: for your losse, I am more sorie then for mine owne: which I will

will see in some sort recompenced, in my mans behalfe: shewe me your Accounts, and bate me but ten in the hundreth, and I will cleare you. Prouided this, that you doe not by any scandalous speach deprane my seruāts reputation, that hath shewed himselfe a true Englishman & by his losse gained his Countrey honour; preferring his reputation before Coyne, and his Credite aboue his life, for which I commend him: and ioy to heare he hath no otherwaies consumed my substāce, nor what he had of other mens: and while I liue, his good deserts shalbe thought on; farre beyond those puling Craxons, his countreymen, that held it no dishonour to be by a stranger dared.

William being so earnest in his mans causes his cause, his Neighbour was sorie to see him so moued, being of such countenance in the Citie, besought him of patience, desiring him, for that (the example of Ryot was perillous to be knowne amongst seruants, hee would conceale it) and reforme his Seruants at home, who spend their money in Tauerns liberally, and procured theirs to doe the like and others: all consuming, both their goods and their owne stocks.

William, who tendered his seruants as himselfe, hearing this complainte, was more displeased then before: charging him with great vnkindnesse, in such manner to withdraw his loue from his people, who were for the most part Gentlemen of worship, being in number twentie, very proper men well maintained, & of good education, the most of them, commonlie on his affaires in other Countreys: saide in very great anger.

Sir, sir, if your comming be to no other ende, then to teach me to order my seruants, you might haue kept you still, where I care not how soone you be gone; if thou dreadest thy wealth consumeth too fast, looke more heedfully to them that spend it: for my men, what they do, I allow, nor will I fauour any one of them, that shal more account of his purse, then my credit: or dareth not spend an Angell with the best, being better men of byrth then my selfe, so as they spende they get; therefore if thou feareste thy expences, and doubteste thy people, keepe thee at home with them, and looke better to their doings: and for my

man Iames. I will be thy pay maister, bring thy Bils, and receiue thy money; but vse him in thy wordes well, least thou heare of it, and so when you will, be gone: but neuer hereafter trouble me more with thy complaints, for it shal not any thing auaile thee.

Here shewed William the perfect loue of a Maister to his seruants, whome he loued more deare then his children: neither should any wrong the poore he kept; such was his care of them, that euery day their dyet was prouided with his owne, and if his Guests were but ordinary, they dyeted at his owne table, or very neare him, where they would: amongst themselues, in name of good Beere, which they plentifully had, drake Claret-wine, and Sacke with Sugar in stone pottes: which though he suddenly met with diuers times, yet would hee rather smile, then take in ill part any of their honest doings.

CHAP. XXII.

¶ How *William* and his friend *Oliuer*, accompanied with *Otho* of *Plimouth*, passed to *Spaine*.

William that had a great stay on his man Iames, albeit he concealed frō the worlds watchfull eyes his conceyte of him, and the greefe for his losse, had this comfort: that Iames being so braue and gallant a Marchant, either by his credite or friends would make all whole againe. Yet could he not be pacified, vntill hee might knowe the certaine estate of his Iames, which hee was perswaded, would neuer be by reports, men being so diuersly giuen: some to speake well, others to defame; for his better contentment, he acquainted his olde friend Oliuer, who concluded to fraught a small Barke, with some commodities to defray charges, and vnknowne to any, no, not to their wiues, to passe for Spaine: and for this Voyage, hauing prouided their goods, left their homes, in charge to their seruants, and to *Plymouth* they are come:

come : of whose arrinall there, when Otho had notice, hee sought and found them. Whom hee inuited as his Guests to lodge in his house : where they were very welcome, and royally feasted. Otho walking on the Key, with his companions, demanded whether they came to buy commodities, or to ship some from thence. From whom they concealed their pretence, framing an Answere that past for currant, betoke them to other parley : and sundry wyes, day by day, deferring time, vntill their Barke was ready, and hailed into the Sound, onely attending the comming of William and Oliuer ; who onely had made the Maister priuy to their voyage to Cales, and their intent to carrie Otho with them for company : laying the plot to get him aboorde, which they easily accomplished, seeing the Barke in the Sound, framed an excuse to deliuer Letters for their men at Cales : so aboord in the Ships boate they come, and were entertained in the Maisters Cabine, with such bynands as was for them prouided : passing the time so merrily, that by the time Otho thought to goe a shore, they had sight of the Lizard : whereat he being astonied, the company in merriment comforted, when acquainting him with their businesse, he was better content ; his chiefest care was for linnen and apparell, which they promised to supplie. Otho, when he saw no remedie, began to frolike with the best, shortning their voyage with pleasant conceits.

Scantly had one whole wéke past his course, but drawing neare the Coast, and the day faire and cleare, a Boy from the top descried the Clifts of Cales, the Roade recouering in good time : where displaying S. George, well were they could first get aboorde to learne the newes ; No sooner our English Lidgert entred the Barke, but finding those their friends, to most of them well knowne, they heartily welcommed them to that shore. Like entertainment gaue the Viictors vnto them, who albeit they were strangers, by their Factors had knowledge, of their great wealth, and what countenance they bare in their Countrey.

Their salutations ended, William enquireth of a trustie

friend to Iames, the newes of him, and where he was. Marry Sir, in good time (qd. the Marchant) you arriue to be a Guest at his marriage. And drawing a Letter which by Poste from Cheries that day he receiued, gaue it him to read: wherein he inuited all his Countrey-men to his marriage, with a relation of the fortunes befallen him, since his leauing Wales: which was great ioy to them all to heare, but most contented William whome most it concerned: which made him thus pleasantly to beseech the company to conceale their being, and with all expedition to land their commodities. Which done (quoth he) like Countreymen and good fellowes, we will all go to him as he requesteth; Iames is a good fellow, and may doe as much for you. Tis a very good motion (quoth the companie) wherefore to dispatch our businesse, let vs a shore, and prouide our necessaries. To which they condiscended, taking their Lodging in the English house, where their welcome was great: there that night they reposed themselues, and the next day entered their goods in the Custome-house and laide it a shore: against which time, Waggons and Horses were prouided for the Iourney to Cheries, where merrily they went, eache one glad of others companie, sundrelie discoursing of Iames, and his Fortunes, with much varietie to beguile time.

CHAP. XXIII.

¶ How the English Marchants arriued at *Cheries*, with their welcomes thither,

THis pleasant Companie made such spéde, that they drewe neere their Iourneyes ende: whither by the height of the Sunne, they perceiued (it was likely, holding on their way) that they shuld come thither too early: wherefore instantly finding a place both pleasant and delightfull, they reposed themselues vnder the Pomegranet and Orenge trees, pleasing their owne fancies,

fancies with those fruits, and spending the day with such pastimes as was meete.

Time that stayeth not, calleth them forwards: before their taking horse, the auncient English Marchants, William, Oliuer, and Otho, having a desire to trie their welcomes, thought it fit, to enter the Towne before the company, and lodge secretly in some other Inne, vntil the solemnitie of the wedding was consumate. And to this ende, desired the company of kindnesse so to let it passe, and to conceale their being there.

The young men which durst not gainesay their Maisters, condiscended, granting them license to take their owne course: and thereupon, directions being giuen, the Maisters hasteneth to ỹ towne, taking their lodging, closely keeping them in their Chambers. About two houres after, and not long before the Sunnes downefall in the West, these gallant Marchants, in their brauerie, all curiously mounted, entered the Towne, taking their lodging in the best Osterie in the Towne: of whose comming, Iames being aduertised, he suddenly made his repaire vnto thẽ before they could shift their apparell, where you need not doubt of their welcome by Iames giuen, to that place, where he entended to be a free-Denison: as appeared by his cost and kind vsage: which with all kindnesses he shewed, in their iolitie carowsing healthes to all their friends in England: especially by name those worthy Patrons, William, Oliuer and Otho, who they all very hartily wished present. But William chiefly was most desired by Iames, who little suspected he was so neare.

Thus met these gallant youthes with ioy and great content, that not long since parted with sorrow and effusion of teares: heere was their olde passed sportes reuiued, and their friendship acknowledged, with firme confirmance vowed each to others, euery man heartily reioycing for Iames his good fortune.

At the good speed of this mirth, and knitting vp this new league, Iames his wife who had notice of their being, and what company they were, richly attiring her selfe, came to

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the place where they all were: where she in all courteous manner, welcommed them to Cheryes. Beseeching them, of that loue and courtesie they beare their Countryman her Husband, to accept his house for their lodging: where how homely so euer, your welcomes shall not be bettered amongst your dearest friends in England.

This kinde proffer of the Lady, so curteous and hartily performed, the Marchants admired, commending Iames his choise, to be absolute, the worthiest in all Spaine, for beautie, wealth, and good entertainment, wherein they thought him blessed. Returning her many thankes for her kindnesse: besought pardon and libertie to take their pleasures in their lodging, which were like otherwaies to be troublesome vnto her, and her Husband. To which request, though vnwilling, she condiscended. Taking her leaue for that time, committed them to their ease and best content.

CHAP. XXIIII.

How *Iames* with his wiues honorable friends being at their cheare, was visited of *William* and his companions, and their welcome.

THe honest young men which accompanied William and his friends to Cheryes, concealed their secret being in ỹ Towne, that it was not knowne to any but themselues: where two daies after their arriuall and great entertainment by Iames and his wife, that holy rights of Wedlocke was openly confirmed at the Church in presence of many of honor and great estimation, which betweene them and the Priest, long before was consummat, to the good liking of both the parties, their friends, and honourable Allayes. Which done, great was their cheare, and ioyes more abounDant, where so good content was equally ballanced.

William

William and his company hearing by their espisals, how the time of dinner grew to end, was conducted to the Bridall house, where they entended to make triall of their welcome: who by a messenger, gaue Iames to vnderstand, that certaine Marchants lately arriued from England, desired to see him. Which Iames hearing, gaue charge should be brought in. Iames sitting in his Maiestie as Maister of the feast, was attired in a gowne of wrought Veluet, a faire Chaine about his necke, and other Abilliments fitly ordered. His Bride richly suted, sitting by him. William beholding his man in this worshipfull maner, admired it: but more to see that honorable company: whom he saluted with dutifull reuerence. Iames seeing his Maister, on whom his thoughts least harped on: and those other his ancient friends, albeit he could willingly haue done them at that dutie to him appertaining: yet kept his place and countenance for that time: bidding them with courage, welcome to Cheryes commanding them to take their places as they came: where being set, Iames thus began.

Fellow William, of all ỹ men England might afford, the best welcome to this place: especially at this time, where so lately you haue bene often wisht. Braue Gallants of that noble Citie of Exeter, your cõpanies hath cheared my spirits, to see you all kinde louers and friends: fall to your vyands, and be merrie, for you shall all haue cause to be merrie here, as you shall finde.

These kind shewes of loue and courtesie, William and his friends more accepted, then if his supposed lost monies had bene instantly tendered him: the conceit whereof, being eye-witnesse of Iames happinesse, and that honour done him by the states present: for ioy made him forbeare his dyet, but hardly teares: vnto whom, and his company, Iames craued often, drinking healths vnto them and their friends in England. Which fauour, the whole company noted: who iudged them to be of worth: their countenace and attire shewing it. To whose welcome, the Spaniards in honour of Iames and his wife, added many good and kinde speeches of fauour, which was more then ordinarie in that proud Nation: all which,

the graue Englishmen with like courtesie returned.

Dinner ended with much mirth and pleasure, Iames in all louing and dutifull manner, imbraced his Maister William: and his friends rendering more then a Million of thankes for their paines that vouchsafed to honour him so vnexpected at that solemnitie: yet could not his minde be satisfied, doubting some extraordinarie occasion brought them thither: loth that any question should be made of his ill husbandrie in ỹ Towne, taking William into his withdrawing Chamber, he said.

Maare Maister, and especiall friend: that you vouchsafed this vndertaken paines, to witnesse my happinesse this day, I render thankes: yet greatly feare, your comming so secret, and onely trauell, hath bene on reports of my misdemeanor: for which, I am the more sorrie, that you whose yeares require rest, should in your age be so cumbred. But how euer, I am glad to see you: and for your goods misspent, no losse to you shall redound: but your accounts, and all men of your Citie, whose trust I was, shall be with such profit cleared, as you and they, shall haue no cause to blame my riotous demeanour. William to quite his seruant, hearing him so kinde to comfort him, and giue no occasion to discontent, frankely acquited him of all debts due to him: and for his comming at that time excused it, of a voluntarie match made with the Maister of the Barke, hauing his two Friends aboord, & the Barke bound for Cales, to bring them vnawares away. While they were in their earnest talke, the Bride hauing some businesse, or taking occasion to giue them their Bene-Venew, séing such shewes of loue betweene them, bad them according to their Countrey manner, very welcome. Beséeching them, to take her house for their Mistrey during their stay: wherein they should honour their Countreyman her Husband, and doe her great fauour. To which, William and his Comperes were easily entreated, the rather to see the order & manner of entertainment of the Spanish Gentlewoman, which they found costly, louing, and very kinde to Iames and all his friends, as they could command no more in their owne houses.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

¶ How *Oliuer* and *Otho*, at the house of a Courtizan, were robbed of their Money and Apparell.

IAmes in the Hauen of Bliffe, ioyfull of his good friends company, loath on the sudden to forgo them: by great sute of his Wife, whom they all honoured for her kindnesse shewed, consented to spend their time fifteene dayes with them to frolike: where (hauing leisure, they viewed the Churches and Monuments of the same, and all other places of content or pleasure. Wandring thus through the Towne, Oliuer and Otho being alone, chanced to passe by the house of a most beautifull Courtizan; who espying these strãgers, seated her in a windowe oppolite with the streete, playing on her Lute. To whose tunes, two others chaunted excellent Ditties: vnto which, Oliuer and Otho gaue good eare; viewing and noting their persons and Beautie, sometimes passing to and fro by the windowe: which the Curtizan perceiuing, as they that were not to learn all fashions, sent her Pandora vnto them, inuiting them to take a Cup of their Wine. Who like men forgetting themselues, were suddenly entreated; entred into Pelles mouth, or the Diuels apron: where they found the Gallant descended into a lower roome to entertaine her prey, whom with kinde embracings and shewes of fauour, she welcommed.

These courtesies, when Otho and his companion saw, as they that could their behauiour to all estates, returned her thankes, with like fauour, gratifying her kindnesse.

The Curtizan, which saw the Fish nibling at the Bayte, to bring them within touch, as well with pleasant Parlay, as her other Delights; thus saide;

Gentlemen, (for so I must call you) if vertue with your graces and attire ioyne in simpathie, strangers you seeme; and it may be, a gentlewomans courtesie, by your nice curiosity, misconstrued, & our kindnesse with froward scandales rewarded: blame me not Gentiles, to censure the worst: Strangers you

seeme whom courtesie commandeth be well entreated: and so much the rather haue I vained you this fauour for Englands honor, of whence, if I guesse not amisse you are: of which nation I more tender the welfare, then of my native Countreymen, if vnder correction I may so say.

Pardon mee honourable Englishman, that am so plaine, women's tongues are long hanged, and their hearts thoughts at the ende thereof: but howsoeuer you please to censure of my speech, if a Gentlewomans courtesie be not reiected, vouchsafe to accept a Cup of Wine, a Lymon, and a peece of Sugar: this is all your cheare, but your welcome as much, as if my gracious Duke were present.

The Marchants albeit the conditions of these alluring Syrenes were sufficiently knowne, yet were their mindes so besotted, that forgetting Wife, Children, and the Rumours of euill speech, both hauing lustfull desires, Otho (to whom in the onset thus saide.

Gentlewoman, (like Vlisses enchaunted companions, so are wee ouertaken wondring at your beautie and other good vertues: but more admiring your courtesie, vouchsafing in such familiaritie to accept of vs, wherein you shew your diuine nature; for nothing is so acceptable as courtesie: which if wee reiect, should degenerate from what men ought, and staine our Countrey. With this gentle Parley they fell to tasting their Wine, and so to Chesses and Primero, till the day was spent, when they made haste to their lodging. But no excuses might serue, but supper they must, and afterwardes hauing had good store of wine, to sleepe: Bedtime drawing neare, the Curtizan not assured of her prey, merrily saide:

Gentlemen, I see our harsh musick sounds not in your eares, they iarre too much: I wish your delight, & gladly would haue you frolike, if there be any thing in my power to content you.

By your fauour (qd. Otho) if a man should challenge your word, you would be the first that would recant. If I doe (qd. she) let mee be burned for an Heretick. I am very sory your hard opinion is such of me: for bee it said, albeit not vainglori-

ously:

busse: Neuer gaue I such cause to any Gentleman, to haue such thoughts on me: for what I promise, Ile performe, if it were the losse of my Maydenhead, by holy S. Iulian, I sweare. Nay, nay, (quoth Oliuer) sweare not so vaine-ly: yea, and nay, Cocke an Pye, are sufficient for honest dealers. Trust me Ladie, if I promise you, or any these prettie soules to be their bedfellow, you may take my bare word without any Oath; if I faile, burne my cappe, and say Cut's a Jade.

Is plaine dealing such a Jewell amongst you Englishmen, (qd. she) and is it my good Fortune to finde it? If you were of our Spanish minds, I shuld soone trie what mettall you English Marchants are made of: for your Gentlemen are gallants that I know by good proofe; hauing a Pilgrimage by holy vow to Saint Iames in Galisia, it was my good hap, to encounter for like deuotion, a Gentleman of England, whome I found so kinde, that for his sake, where ere hee shall come in my Paternoster, hee and his Countreymen, are in my credite.

Let that word stand (quoth Otho) and Mistresse, because an Earnest-penny bindes, I take this sweete Farme to mine owne, to haue & hold it this night, and for it there's my pawne, kissing her swetly on the lippes. As the Mistresse, so her Seruants proued Tassells, gentle enough to come at any Lure: how loftie so euer they Mower, (downe they come with the Murren) as these honest Marchants found to their costs; who were scantly quietly laid in their Beds, but a crewe of Ruffians, (Birds of this neast, entered the house, swearing and tormenting with bitter Oaths, they were assured some villaine was in the house, which they would find. At which words the Curtizan seemed to feare her husbands terror, and cried mainly out. Oh Sir, I am vndone, this is my Husband returned from the Court, who if he finde you, will murther you.

While they were in this feare, the Ruffians broke the doores with two or three Torches, entered the Chamber, trailed the Curtizan by the haire from their Bed, & threatned them with death. The Marchants in feare, pleaded for pitty: whereunto no regard was giuen, but like tirants they raigned ouer them;

vntill one of the company in cole tearmes, calling the chiefe of them by the name of Brother, entreated for them, and perswaded him to be as they seemed, men harmlesse, & for their Countrey, to which hee vowed loue, besought him let them passe.

To whose wordes he began somewhat to listen, medigated his rage, content to let the Birds goe, but so pruned them, that they had neither Money, Iewell, or Apparell left, but naked in their shirts, driuen out at doores: threatned vehemently, that if they made any Rumour of their losses, whereby any trouble might ensue, their liues should make them recompence.

With this admonition, Otho and Oliuer, (lightly Attired for sweating) walked the streetes, and were by the Watch surprized; who enquiring the cause of their late walking, excused themselues, (being straungers) that as they were taking ayre of the Fields, they were by vagarant people spoyled of all they had, and bound; where they had continued all the night without rescue; if one by fortune had not relieued the other: who besought the Watch to bee their conduct to the house of Don Iaques de Enylotoere, where they lodged: who like kinde people shewed them that courtesie, & were let in: excusing them in like manner, to William, & their Hoast, & his wife; with whom their counterfeyt Coyne went for currant, & were of them pitied; but most of the Spanish Gentlewoman bemoned, that tendered more their welfare, then her owne neerest of bloud. The Damselles glad that it past so well of their sides, without any more suspect, kept their owne counselles, and was neuer knowns, but in iest in England, betweene themselues.

CHAP. XXVI.

¶ How *Iames*, at his Maister *William* his departure, cleared his Accounts, and his recompence, with the courtesie of his wife.

The time of Williams promise with his ancient Seruant Iames, for his stay after the Marriage, grew now to end, and a parting time was come, how loath soeuer; against which, Iames by his Factors, had prouided reale at Cales to be laden, the best Spice, wine, and Sugar, with costly & rich Marchandise, the Countrey could afford, or money in many sought

places

places might procure William and his friends being all wearied of that vile life, hauing ſome buſineſſe for fraught of their ſhip, could not be intreated longer to make their abode there. But prouiding for their iourney, Iames and his wife protested by religious oathes, to accompanie them to their Porte, which they performed: paſſing the time, by eaſie iournies, pleaſantly ſolacing themſelues, till they came to Cales: againſt whoſe arriuall, the ſeruants of Iames had purueyed their lodgings verie bountifull: in which they repoſed them that night. Next morning gaue order for ſale of their goods, & lading the Barke: which albeit, by thoſe that vndertooke it, was ſuddenly done, yet Iames his owne ſhip and goods was as readie to ſet ſaile: for whom the winds fauourably blowing, the Maiſter gaue notice to William and his friends. At their leaue taking, Iames hauing his billes of lading readie, and ſmall hope euer to ſee his Maiſter after that time, made him tender of the moneyes he owed him, and thoſe ſummes due to ſuch other Marchants of Exeter he dealt for. Which by no meanes he would be drawne to accept, but for his neighbours willed him to haue regard: otherwiſe it might proue his griefe to heare him ill ſpoken of. Which kindneſſe, Iames with teares accepted. And on his knees crauing pardon, beſought his Maiſter to grant him one requeſt, which William vouchſafed.

Then Sir, for your neighbours (quoth he) for whom you wiſh recompence, to my honeſt Countreymen there left behind you, their ſtocks with intereſt I will deliuer, for ỹ whole time I haue detained the ſame. For your ſelfe, whom I know not how to deſerue ſo great fauour, be now your words warrantiſe: for ſo I challenge your graunt: that ſeeing money or other commodities for that great ſumme, lewdly waſted by me, you will not accept, in all humbleneſſe to my good Miſtreſſe commend me, and as a poore votary to her and you, deliuer theſe Letters, and other Papers therin cloſed. This ſhip hailed into the Roade, ſhall waite vpon you, wherein I haue ſome ſeruants to attend you: if for your better eaſe, you will vouchſafe of her before your owne appointed Barke: and ſo in Gods peace at your pleaſure gee aboord.

William

William circumuenteth James, could not tel what thanks to giue him, hoping his loue and faithfull minde: though loath, would not gainsay his biggest request, but returned him many thanks: and after a solemne farewell taken by their friends, together went, commended by Iames and his wife to good fortune at sea, hope could not forbeare effusion of many teares, for the losse of so good company. Who with kind words and much prayer, commended her to the father and mother of Iames, and Williams wife. Taking their last Adieu, they [illegible] vnder sayle, foreseeing at full, for their [illegible] the heauens so fauoured, that in lesse then eight dayes, they recouered the heauen of Dartmouth: from whence taking boate, they posted to Exeter, where they were all heartily welcome. Hauing repaired themselues two or three dayes, William by his seruants, gaue order for discharge of his goods, feasted the Spaniards, and thenrichly rewarded: deliuered Iames and his wiues tokens to all his friends, in presence of his men, to whom he made a great banket: retounding at large his former estate, with his happie fortune, enioying so louing and kinde a wife. Shortly after, furnishing the Spanish ships with sundrie commodities into that countrey, he dispatched them, with his kind Letters, and many Tokens from lunaty friends. So resting himselfe in quiet, he enioyed the blessing of God in that most famous Citie: A patrone and fauorer of the poore, vntill the end of his dayes, which was not long: as hereafter shall be shewed.

FINIS.